Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Visiting Vietnamese Delegation Holds Talks in Havana 7 Jul

BK0907070393 Hanoi VNA in English 0629 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 9—The visiting Vietnamese party and government delegation held talks in Havana on July 7 with a party and government delegation of Cuba.

The Vietnamese delegation to the talks was headed by Vo Van Kiet, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee [CC] and prime minister, and included Nguyen Duc Binh, Politburo member and secretary of the CPV CC, Nguyen Manh Cam, member of the CPV CC and foreign minister, Le Xuan Trinh, member of the CPV CC and head of the government's office, Nguyen Duy Qui, member of the CPV CC and director of the National Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, Dang Van Than, member of the CPV CC and general director of the General Department of Post and Telecommission, Nguyen Ngoc Tran, head of the party CC Commission for Overseas Vietnamese, Do Van Tai, deputy head of the party CC Commission for External Relations, Vo Hong Phuc, vice-chairman of the State Planning Committee, Vu Quoc Tuan, assistant to the prime minister, and Le Duc Cang, Vietnamese ambassador to Cuba.

The Cuban delegation to the talks was headed by Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba (CPC) Central Committee, president of the State Council and the Council of Ministers, and included Carlos Lage, Politburo member of the CPC Central Committee, vice-president of the State Council and Standing secretary of the Council of Ministers, Jose Ramon Balaguer, Politburo member of the CPC Central Committee in charge of External Relations and Ideological Work, Roberto Robaina, Politburo member of the CPC Central Committee and foreign minister, Carlos Perez, minister of agriculture, Arturo Gusman, minister and chairman of the State Committee for Prices and President of the Cuban Section to the Cuba-Vietnam Inter-Governmental Comission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation, Melba Hernandez, member of the CPC CC, Pedro Alvarez, deputy foreign trade, and Tania Maceira, ambassadress to Vietnam.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said that the Vietnamese Communist Party and people are very proud of the Cuban Communist Party and people, their militant friend and staunch and loyal comrade.

He expressed heartfelt thanks to the communist party and fraternal people of Cuba for their solidarity, support and valuable assistance to the Vietnamese people in the latter's fight to defend the fatherland in the past as well as in the present national construction and defence.

For his part, President Fidel Castro welcomed the high-ranking party and government delegation of Vietnam led by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. He asked the delegation to convey his best regards to Do Muoi, Le Duc Anh, Pham Van Dong, Nguyen Van Linh and Vo Chi Cong. He informed the Vietnamese delegtion of the situation in Cuba in the recent past, especially of the rectification campaign and the fight against negative phenomena, to overcome difficulties and hardships arising from the quick and complicated changes in the international situation as well as from the imperialists' embargo against Cuba.

The Cuban president assured the Vietnamese guests that in whatever circumstances, the communist party and people of Cuba will persist in the socialist path which can find a most convincing proof in the Feb. 24 National Assembly elections and in the efforts to find measures to overcome the present special situation. He expressed his joy at the achievements the Vietnamese people recorded in national construction and economic development as well as at the results of the open-door foreign policy and the positive changes in Vietnam.

President Fidel Castro reaffirmed that the Communist Party, government and people of Cuba now as in the past shall unite with Vietnam and shall do all they can to constantly consolidate and develop the multiform Vietnam-Cuba relations in conformity with the traditional durable relations that have bound the two nations.

In reply, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet reiterated the Vietnamese people's determination to remain loyal to the fraternal Cuban people in whatever circumstances, for the success of the revolution in each country and the success of socialism.

Prime minister invited President Fidel Castro to visit Vietnam. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Visits Brigade No. 30, Agricultural Camp

FL0907015993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Today, the Vietnamese delegation headed by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visited Brigade No. 30 of the Blas Roca contingent and the Paraiso youth agricultural camp, both located in Guines Municipality, Havana. They were accompanied by Politburo member Candido Palmero, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana.

From members of the contingent the delegation learned about planting and harvesting plantain plantations, the seeds for which originally came from Vietnam. Their tour of a plant concluded with comments by Vo Van Kiet:

[Begin recording, in Vietnamese with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] The Cuban people are a heroic people. There is no problem that Cuba cannot overcome. Cuba will win. Long live Cuba. Long live Vietnam. [end recording]

Upon their arrival at the Paraiso Camp, the delegation was met by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, Politburo member, Moncada heroine Melba Hernandez, and Juan Contino, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists National Committee. [passage omitted]

Visits Havana Pediatric Hospital

FL0807185093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Today Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and the high-level delegation he heads visited the Juan Manuel Marquez Pediatric Hospital of Havana. Public Health Minister Julio Teja and Vice Minister Ramon Diaz Vallina accompanied the visitors on their tour through the hospital, where Dr. Roberto Carpio, deputy director of the center, explained the treatments given there. Vo Van Kiet expressed interest in the condition of the young surgical patients and other young patients hospitalized at the medical center.

The Vietnamese delegation also visited the children of Chernobyl who are receiving medical treatment at the Juan Manuel Marquez Hospital. A Ukrainian woman, mother of one of the small victims of the Chernobyl disaster, spoke to the Vietnamese leader and highlighted the kindness and professionalism of the medical treatment they receive.

Vo Van Kiet said he would like to link the Juan Manuel Marquez Hospital with a hospital in Hanoi to share experiences and receive Cuban specialists, because more than 1 million children are born every year in Vietnam.

Vo Van Kiet Condemns Embargo

FL0807161193 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0115 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Speech by Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, upon acceptance of the Jose Marti Order from Cuban President Fidel Castro at a ceremony for this purpose at Revolution Palace on 8 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Vietnamese people greatly admire the firmness and heroism with which the Cuban people are facing up to the special period. Due to our own experiences, we are convinced that the Cuban people will most assuredly manage to overcome the current difficulties and continue to move their nation forward.

The Vietnamese people reiterate their unflagging solidarity with the just cause of the Cuban people in defense of their independence and sovereignty, national dignity, and their chosen path of building socialism for the greater happiness of the population.

We demand an immediate end to the policy of blockade and embargo against Cuba. The portion of Cuban territory on which the Guantanamo Naval Base is located must be returned to its true, legitimate owner: the Cuban people. There is no power capable of forcing a surrender from such as the Cuban people, which has made so many sacrifices for its independence and freedom and for the independence and freedom of many other peoples as well.

Beloved comrades, with the spirit and will of over three decades of struggle for independence and freedom, and with the experience of almost two decades of constructing the nation at an extremely difficult juncture, our entire party and people have been and are still deeply involved in indefatigable efforts aimed at finding, step by step, (?our own) path (?toward) socialism and a greater and more beautiful Vietnam, as our esteemed and beloved Uncle Ho desired.

Throughout our long and difficult struggle, we have always been able to count on having at our side a firm and extremely faithful companion in the struggle, the fraternal [Communist] Party, as well as the Government and people, of Cuba and its highest representative, the esteemed and beloved President Fidel Castro, who has given the Vietnamese people powerful support and disinterested assistance in the spirit that for Vietnam Cuba is willing to give even its very blood. The heartfelt words uttered by Fidel, and those deep sentiments of friendship and affection, constitute a very strong source of motivation that help our fighters and compatriots overcome difficulties and trust solidly in the final victory. These are feelings that the Vietnamese of today, as well as future generations, will carry always, etched in their minds and hearts.

We are proud of the close and faithful ties that have united our two peoples throughout all these years of fierce struggle and arduous labor. We feel even more satisfaction today because at socialism's most difficult moments, the Vietnamese and Cuban people continue to be united in the struggle for the revolutionary cause in their respective countries, as well as for socialism. This is solidarity that can exist only between two revolutionary peoples, between two parties infinitely faithful to Marxism-Leninism and to socialism. We promise to do everything possible to unceasingly consolidate and develop the many kinds of relations that exist between our two parties and peoples.

At the present, extremely significant moment, and in an ambience radiant with friendship, camaraderie, and brotherhood, I say: May the people of Cuba, under the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party headed by our esteemed and beloved comrade, Fidel Castro, fulfill victoriously the historic mission of firmly defending—and may they continue hoisting the flag of—socialism in the western hemisphere.

I express my hope that the militant solidarity in the relations of friendship and fraternal cooperation between our two communist parties and peoples, the Vietnamese and Cuban, will be eternally indestructible. Thank you very much.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Sao Paulo, Brazil

FL0807213493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1935 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Havana City and the city of Santos, Sao Paulo, Brazil have signed a cooperation agreement intended to strengthen ties of friendship and understanding. (Edward Mesquita) signed the agreement at his introduction of (David Capilano), prefect of the city of Santos, and (Rogelio Melian), vice president of the provincial People's Council of Havana City.

The document includes continuing information exchanges in diverse economic sectors, authorization to make donations of school supplies and medicine and organize a Cuban cultural event, and exchanges in the health and tourism sectors.

(Edward Mesquita), who is also the cultural secretary of the city of Santos, said that this step will corroborate the willingness of the Brazilian people to maintain friendly relations with Cuba.

U.S.Consideration of Suspending Telephone Communications Viewed

FL0807213293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Editorial commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] In an urgent dispatch dated today in Washington, the EFE news agency reports that—and I quote—the U.S. Government is considering the suspension of telephone communications with Cuba via Canada because it considers this practice illegal, according to official sources quoted by the U.S. press. In the following paragraph EFE specifies: The sources—not identified by the news agency—pointed out that channeling phone calls through Canada is a violation of the embargo against the Fidel Castro regime.

If this information is correct, two opposing positions could be at play. The first option could be that official sectors within the U.S. Administration are determined to maintain and intensify the blockade against our country despite manifest rejection by the international community and important sectors in the United States, some of which are not far from the spheres of power.

The second option could consist of an attempt to lower the profile of the blockade—or embargo, as it is called in the United States—and search for the possibility of a more realistic relationship within the complex of federal and state laws enacted during the more than 30 years of blockade: in this case, direct telephone communication between the two countries.

As is well known, an important U.S. communications firm has not been able to pay the $80-plus million it owes Cuba for telephone services, because the U.S. Treasury prevents it from doing so on the basis of the law of trading with the enemy, one of the blockade's (?main) supports.

Cuba's position is well known. If there is a will to negotiate, to negotiate on the level of equality and mutual respect, then we can talk. There is no impatience on our part and we are not clinging to illusions to avoid disappointments [words indistinct] of those understandings. A sovereign nation dialogues, talks, or negotiates only on a level of total equality and mutual respect.

Electric Union Forced To Reduce Generating Levels

FL0907010293 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Since 7 July, an emergency situation has arisen in the production of electricity because of restricted fuel and availability at generator stations. For this reason, the Electric Union says it has been forced to reduce electric generating levels and severely increase power cuts nationwide, over and above those scheduled.

This situation will continue for several days and will improve gradually in the coming week. This requires taking great pains to reduce consumption in production and service centers, which will make electricity available to guarantee the production of exportable items, food, and basic services such as water management, hospitals, bakeries, and refrigeration. Signed: The Electric Union.

Medical Contingents Said 'Very Useful Abroad'

FL0807192193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] A report in the newspaper GRANMA today highlights the fact that in 30 years, close to 60 million people in the world have been aided by Cuban physicians, technicians, and nurses. The data was provided by Dr. Jaime (Davis), medical cooperation director for the Ministry of Public Health, who added that Cuba has, at present, approximately 3,000 healthcare professionals at work in 35 countries.

The Cuban medical contingents have been very useful abroad, (?taking) clinical and surgical assistance and all our experience in health matters to the remotest of places.

Another form of technical cooperation our country has provided, particularly to the Third World, is the training of mid- and high- level professionals in Cuba. Over 4,000 foreign scholarship students have graduated in such studies on the island.

Cuban medical cooperation began in 1963, when 29 physicians, four dentists, 14 technicians, and 18 nurses traveled to cities and towns in Algeria to lend the population their humanitarian aid.

Economic 'Crisis' Said Factor in 'Serious Medicine Problem'

PA0907042193 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The economic crisis Cuba is enduring, a crisis produced by external factors, is having effects on the supply of food, consumer goods, technology, raw material, spare parts, and pharmaceutical products.

Cuba, whose health index is in many respects equal to or better than those of developed nations, reached the kind of development that allowed the island to produce 80 percent of its pharmaceutical needs. But as a result of the collapse of its relations with the former Socialist camp, especially with the Soviet Union, the possibilities of acquiring raw material necessary for the production of pharmaceutical items narrowed.

If to this we add the severe U.S. blockade, made more stringent by the so-called Torricelli Law, we can conceive of the dimension of the obstacles Cuba has to face to find what it needs in other markets.

Right now the country cannot buy 300 medical products to sell them to the public. In March 1992 this was true of 230 medical products.

Since the Cuban Government must dedicate two-thirds of its revenues to purchase oil, it cannot allocate foreign exchange to cover the shortage in medicines.

In 1989 Cuban authorities allocated 132 million pesos—the same amount in dollars—to import pharmaceutical products and raw material to produce medicine locally. But as a result of annual reductions, during the first six months of 1993 the authorities allocated only 16 million pesos to such imports.

These figures do not include the state's urgent expenditures to secure in only 35 days the components of the vitamin compound that for the past three months has been given free of charge to all Cubans to mitigate the neuropathology epidemic.

The Cuban Health Ministry foresees a slight improvement in the availability of medicine for the remainder of the year, although medicine urgently needed for grave diseases has always been guaranteed.

Now more than ever, Cubans are resorting to medicinal plants whose virtues have been scientifically demonstrated, are studying variants to replace imported medicine, and are rationally distributing donations from governments, international organizations, and private citizens.

All this helps mitigate the serious medicine problem.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Barbados' Sandiford Remarks on Caricom Summit

FL0807182193 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1700 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The first press conference of the heads of government meetings was held today. Barbados prime minister, the Honorable Erskine Sandiford, touched on issues relating to Caribbean integration, the common market, and the court of appeals. Martin Albry has details.

[Albry] Prime minister of Barbados, the Honorable Erskine Sandiford, told newsmen today that Barbados supports the pillars of the Caricom [Caribbean Community] community, which will inevitably lead to the integration of the millions of people who reside in the Caribbean region. Barbados, he says, is in full support of the institution of Caricom coming together and [word indistinct] a common market and the Caribbean Court of Appeals.

Prime Minister Sandiford said a significant achievement of this 14th Heads of Caricom Government Conference will be to see the emergence from the conference of a strengthening of the regional integration movement as the heads make significant decisions in the area of economic cooperation that could lead to better prospects for the millions of people who live throughout the Caribbean region, which will help to alleviate some of the problems pervading the Caribbean region such as unemployment.

Mr. Sandiford said he was positive that the Heads of Government will take decisions to put the resources of the region together to orient and reorient the trust of the economic blocs and groups. Prime Minister Sandiford said all of the institutions of Caricom must be brought together and they must be in place. Saying that Barbados supports the creation of a Caribbean court of appeals, however long it takes to come into being, he said the court of appeals will serve to ensure not only that the laws of human rights are followed, in terms of the rule of law, but in terms of the treaty and other obligations which Caricom member states have entered into, and to ensure the fulfillment of those obligations. Caricom heads have adjourned their closed business sessions until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Prime Minister of St. Lucia, the Honorable John Compton, is expected to address members of the press at 4 o'clock today. The Heads of Government Conference will have its closing session until 7 o'clock this evening, when a Caricom communique is expected to be ratified and adopted.

From the 14th Caricom Heads of Government Conference at the Radisson Cable Beach Hotel, I'm Martin Albry.

St. Lucia's Compton's Remarks on Caricom Summit Noted

FL0907003293 Bridgetown CANA in English 2244 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, July 8, CANA—St Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton Thursday said his Caribbean colleagues had agreed to an intensive diplomatic effort aimed at ensuring the survival of the region's vital banana industry.

Compton told reporters the Caribbean leaders, meeting here for their 14th annual summit, had taken a decision whereby, Caricom [Caribbean Community] countries, who are members of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) would seek to become members of the council as well.

That council will discuss the request by the Latin American countries to establish a second panel to debate Europe's new banana regime.

In addition, Compton said the leaders had also agreed to write the Commonwealth Secretariat, "asking that all ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries that are members of the GATT be onboard to support our position."

Latin American countries have asked the GATT to establish a panel to rule on the new banana regime by the European Community for the sale of the commodity in Europe. The regime went into effect from July 1.

Compton said the Latin Americans were in the meantime flooding the market with fruit which would reduce prices and wipe out small farmers in the Caribbean.

He said that in discussions with Costa Rica Government officials here this week, it was pointed out that San Jose would not be "willing to participate in the banana war and that we should try and meet with the Latin American countries to see if we can reach some sort of arrangements".

Compton said this meeting was scheduled for either St Lucia or Jamaica later next month.

Compton was highly critical of the United States position on the banana issue, saying it lacked "both understanding and sympathy of our position".

"Here you have a number of countries in your hemisphere, they share your ideals...and now you, because the cold war is finished, their concerns are no longer present," he added.

Regarding the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Compton said Caricom was ensuring that, "when we go to talk about it we must have something on the table, and that is currently being prepared".

"I don't think we just want to plead a case. We want to have something on the table for discussion," he said, in respect to the proposed hemispheric free trade agreement, which includes the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Compton disagreed with suggestions that by agreeing to Cuba's request for deleting references to free and fair elections and democracy in the proposed joint Caricom-Cuba Commission, Havana had been able to score a major diplomatic victory in its quest for recognition by the Caribbean.

"It's really the Caribbean being consistent in its position. We have had joint commissions with Venezuela, Colombia...Certain phrases crept into the Cuban one, it was not present in the Colombia and Venezula ones, the Cubans drew our attention to that, and we agreed that we will be consistent in our dealings with the Latin American countries".

Compton said that the region should "not be seen to be discriminating against one country, whatever its ideology".

"We are speaking about trade and co-operation," he added.

The St Lucian prime minister brushed aside suggestions that Washington might express its displeasure at the new turn of events between Caricom and Havana.

"The cold war is over, and that is the message Caricom is trying to send to all...The cold war is over and it should not be fought in the Caribbean".

Compton noted that Washington had agreed to provide financial assistance to Vietnam, "where U.S. blood was shed". "Why should we continue the cold war in the Caribbean".

"We have been speaking to Cuba for sometime...because they are part of the Caribbean. We have to face the fact that Cuba is in the Caribbean and we cannot continue to treat Cuba as a pariah, we have to remove all the sources of tension in the Caribbean if we have to move forward," he added.

Trinidad and Tobago To Seek Bilateral Agreement With Guyana on Dept

FL0907003193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2207 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Report by Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 8, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago will be seeking to reach a bilateral agreement with Guyana later this month on the US$00 million dollar debt the South American state owes this country, a Finance Ministry source said Thursday.

The source told CANA a ministerial team will be going to Georgetown for negotiations on the matter with Guyanese officials. The debt includes Central Bank loans and an oil facility arrangement.

Talks between Prime Minister Patrick Manning and Guyana's Paris Club creditors two months ago, cleared the way for Trinidad and Tobago to start direct negotiations with Guyana to settle the debt issue.

Guyana had reached a 1989 agreement with Trinidad and Tobago on repayment of the debt, but subsequently said it was unable to honour the agreement because it would be violating the terms of a debt restructuring agreement with the Paris Club.

"(Manning's meeting with Guyana's Paris Club creditors) has cleared the rough path for us, so now we are going to Guyana and hopefully settle the issue of payment on the debt once and for all," the Finance Ministry source told CANA.

Trinidad and Tobago will propose that on the accumulated arrears on the 1989 agreement, Guyana pay US34 million dollars over a 12 year period including a six year grace period. Payments on interest will begin immediately.

The Trinidad and Tobago team will also propose that Guyana honour the payment of 19 million dollars between August and December next year, according to the terms of the 1989 agreement.

"Since we know that Guyana would not be able to give us all the money due in cash, we will consider equity swaps and other kinds of conversion processes, but there must be some targeted level," the source said.

Prime Minister Manning was expected to hold talks with Guyana President Dr Cheddi Jagan on the debt issue during the Caricom heads of government conference currently taking place in the Bahamas.

The Finance Ministry source noted Guyana was honouring the Paris Club debt of US200 million dollars.

"We have already given significant concessions in the 1989 agreement (53 million dollars) and we can't see any seriousness on their part to pay the money," the source said.

"We are also not in a similar economic position like the other Paris Club creditors who are members of the (Group of Seven). We have an onerous debt ... and we also have to honour that debt."

Guyana's Jagan Remarks on 'Bringing the Region Back Together'

FL0807183093 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1700 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Responding to the prime minister [of The Bahamas], the president of Guyana, His Excellency Dr. Cheddi Jagan, touched on bringing the region back together after independence.

[Begin recording] We fought like hell to become independent. Now that we are independent, we have to fight like hell to get back together, not like colonials, but as a united and free Caribbean. And I think we have the [word indistinct] and the human resources to be able to make our way once we demonstrate the political will. I do not despair despite the [word indistinct] in the present world situation, the troubled world with which we are faced. I am very optimistic. [end recording]

Haiti

Anticorruption Bloc Holds News Conference on Agreement

FL0807204593 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Report by Dally Valet on news conference held by the senators of the Constitutionalist Anticorruption Bloc in Port-au-Prince on 7 July—recorded in Creole]

[Excerpts] A decisive step has been taken in the evolution of the crisis since the signing of the Aristide-Cedras agreement. This is a statement by Senator Firmin Jean-Louis, president of the Constitutionalist Bloc of the Senate, during a news conference on 7 July. Sen. Firmin Jean-Louis condemned the stand of some parliamentarians, such as Dupiton who is convinced that the agreement should be submitted to the parliament for ratification. The fact that a parliamentarian is trumpeting this question of ratification is insane, because the agreement is a document signed between Haitians, said Jean-Louis. [passage omitted]

Sen. Jean-Louis denounced as irresponsible the politicans who are saying that General Cedras lacked authority to sign any political agreement. Those people do not seem to have [a good] memory, according to Jean-Louis, who stated that this is the same Gen. Cedras who signed the Villa d'Accueil agreement, a highly political agreement. [passage omitted]

Firmin Jean-Louis called on the Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion, ACP] parliamentarians, those who are constitutional [i.e., elected for four and six years during the 16 December 1990 and 20 January 1991 elections], to come to work together with those of the Constitutionalist Bloc for the normalization of the parliament so that it can regain dignity and ratify with no delaying tactics the prime minister who will be chosen by President Aristide.

Sen. [Jacques] Rony Mondestin thinks the 18 January [elections] problem has been solved. In his opinion, once Gen. Cedras signed the agreement, he [supposedly] rejected all the arbitrary actions been committed in the country since the 30 September [1991] coup d'etat, such as the 18 January elections. [passage omitted]

Sen. Mondestin denounces as political immorality the fact that the 18 January parliamentarians are asking for money in return for nullification of the 18 January elections.

For his part, President Firmin Jean-Louis announced that negotiations were being held between the Constitutionalist Bloc and ACP senators so an agreement can be reached and unity established so the parliament can operate normally.

Malval, Latortue Rumored as Prospective Prime Ministers

FL0807162793 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French at 1030 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Report by Anne-Marie Issa, in Creole, live from the United States]

[Text] President Aristide's choice of a prime minister is already being discussed. Candidates are not lacking. In the United States [words indistinct] fall on the following two people: Robert Malval and Gerard Latortue. Anne-Marie Issa, you mix with the Haitian community in the United States. How is the situation?

[Issa] Over here, until now, everybody was very anxious. Only one question is being asked everywhere. It is: Who will be the next prime minister of Haiti? I must remind you that the next step is the appointment by President Aristide of his prime minister, who will need to be ratified by parliament so the embargo can be lifted.

Over here, Robert Malval, owner of a printing house called Imprimerie Le Natal, and Gerard Latortue, former foreign affairs minister under Leslie Francois Manigat, are being talked about a lot these days. Last week, it was said that Malval, who is still in the United States with President Aristide because he was part of the delegation, would discuss this matter with President Aristide. According to what we have heard from a source, Malval has to rally the Haitian private sector to go to Miami to meet with President Aristide next week.

According to the same source, who wishes to remain anonymous, Gerard Latortue, whose name is liberally mentioned behind the scenes of the negotiations, is also very good for the post of prime minister because—still according to that source, Gerard Latortue is above the political fray, has strong international credit, and would be a very good choice for the post of prime minister. According to that source, Latortue is an honest man who is working at the ONUDI [United Nations Organization for International Development] and who can greatly help Haiti out of its current economic problems through his international relations.

By the way, I must also tell you that Channel 10 has announced a projected interview here with General Cedras. But it has not yet specified the date and time of that interview.

Franchise Association Representatives' Remarks on NAFTA Noted

PA0907044793 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Report by Maricarmen Gutierrez Hernandez]

[Text] Enrique Gonzalez Calvillo, vice president for national publicity of the Mexican Franchise Association [Asociacion Mexicana de Franquicias], has said that if the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] is not signed by Mexico, the United States, and Canada, there is no possibility of the three countries achieving sustained growth. NAFTA is no longer optional; it is essential for sustained growth in Mexico, Canada, and the United States, Gonzalez Calvillo stated in a news conference.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] As we said before, we think NAFTA is no longer an option. It is essential for sustained growth in the three countries. Adequate conditions will surely prevail for economic development even if NAFTA is not approved in a timely manner, but the three countries cannot miss this opportunity. [end recording]

Luis Luna (Nevi), president of the Mexican Franchise Association, explained that representatives of franchise holders affiliated with the association have asked their counterparts in Canada and the United States to support the NAFTA.

Institutional Revolutionary Party Presents Electoral Reform Proposal

PA0907011593 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Report by Juan Manuel Renteria—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] During a meeting attended by representatives of all its branches, the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] on 7 July presented an electoral reform proposal for 1994.

PRI President Fernando Ortiz Arana read the eight political-electoral proposals of his party that must be implemented as of the 1994 presidential elections.

1. The Senate of the Republic will be able to have senators of proportional representation.

[Ortiz Arana] "The PRI proposes increasing to three the number of senators for each federated state, and assigning two of them on a majority basis—as is currently being done—and the third to the first minority [as heard]."

2. The PRI proposes eliminating the governing [gobernabilidad] clause in the Chamber of Deputies.

[Ortiz Arana, in progress] "...of ensuring the same conditions for the parties to assign deputies by direct vote."

3. The Electoral Colleges will disappear to prevent senators and deputies from appraising their own work. The appraisal will be done by councils dependent on the Federal Electoral Institute, and eventually, the Electoral Tribunal.

4. Public and private financing of political parties will be regulated and direct contributions to candidates are prohibited.

[Ortiz Arana, in progress] "...and exclude government entities, foreign groups, for profit organizations, and religious groups as sources of financing."

5. The PRI proposes a ceiling on campaign expenses, based on the number of voters.

6. It also proposes regulating the political parties' access to the media.

7. It proposes the reform and improvement of electoral procedures. The specific proposals are: Exercising greater control of ballots, restricting coalitions that are not based on a genuine affinity, and providing immediate information on electoral results.

8. On independent verification of the Electoral Register and the accreditation of national observers of the electoral process, the PRI proposes conducting audits of the Electoral Register and of the distribution of voting credentials before the Chamber of Deputies leaders and Senators, assembly members, labor leaders, peasants, and people's groups.

Fernando Ortiz Arana added:

[Ortiz Arana] "There is no break with the party's previous positions. Each one of the proposed reforms is unacceptable if it is independent of the others."

These proposals will be discussed, and in due time approved, during the announced Senate and Chamber of Deputies special period of sessions in August.

El Salvador

President Cristiani Gives News Conference 5 Jul

PA0707200293 San Salvador Radio El Salvador Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Jul 93

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with local and foreign reporters and unidentified moderator at the Presidency in San Salvador—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Moderator] [Name indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] to extend the deadline to surrender weapons. How long is that extension?

[Cristiani] We have not heard of such a request. On 2 July the UN Observers for El Salvador gave us a report sent by the UN secretary general to the UN Security Council in which 4 March...[corrects himself] I mean 4 August is mentioned. That coincides with the 45 days the FMLN originally requested from the United Nations. We have no knowledge of a deadline extension.

I can tell you in advance that we would reject any such request if it were filed and if the government were consulted about it by the UN Security Council or secretary general. I think this process can take place perfectly well in less than 45 days if the FMLN were indeed determined to surrender all weapons still in its hands. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] [Name indistinct] Cabrera of "The News."

[Cabrera] If you had selected the new attorney general, would you have chosen a person facing a lawsuit for battering his companion?

[Cristiani] That is another theoretical question. The Legislative Assembly makes these appointments and its members must determine whether information that becomes available after an appointment is made should adversely affect a person's appointment to public office. Legislative Assembly mechanisms should determine—now that additional information about the attorney general is known—whether it is valid or if it will affect his appointment. They will have to follow assembly procedures to confirm him or appoint someone else.

[Moderator] Norma Jimenez of [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

[Jimenez] I have a question regarding the coffee pact signed over the 3 July weekend. [Words indistinct] of production?

[Cristiani] I want to express the government's stand on these efforts. We view this basically as a reorganization of our coffee marketing strategy. World statistics show there is a virtual balance between supply and demand. Prices, however, are at their lowest level if we base our measurements on constant prices for who knows how many years. Coffee prices are significantly undermining the economies of producing countries, especially ours. This also hurts employment in the coffee industry.

We are trying to modify our strategy to maintain a relatively stable supply and demand. As for the consumers' maneuver of retaining surplus coffee supplies, that is how they manage to keep prices low. Consumers already have a certain amount of coffee on hand, and that leads to a drop in coffee prices. The goal of retaining coffee is to change the location of coffee surpluses, thus giving producing countries better control over marketing and ensuring reasonable prices.

From our viewpoint, this is actually a marketing operation. Perhaps this retention is being confused with the retention mentioned in agreements reached with the Office of International Trade [OIT] that registered an unfavorable consumption balance; there was more production than consumption, thus there were large surpluses that had to be dealt with.

The idea is to sell the so-called retained product whenever reasonable and justifiable price levels are reached. I mean going by reasonable price levels whenever the retained products are sold. It is not like when the OIT said a certain amount had to be retained and inventories grew. At one point we had stored almost the entire harvest because of the retentions. The problem is not one of supply and demand but rather a marketing policy problem. We want to order improvements so consumers do not manipulate the market and try to keep prices down. We want to reach an equitable level. We do not believe this should lead to a price of $300 per quintal, which has been the price for as long as I can remember. We are talking about $90 per quintal or something close to it so marketing mechanisms for those retentions can become effective. I mean, we are organizing the procedure for selling the product, not necessarily speculating by imposing retentions.

[Moderator] Jorge Barahona of El Salvador Telepress.

[Barahona] The Catholic Church on 4 July said the announcement on the investigation of Monsignor Joaquin Ramos' murder was hasty. The announcement said that no conclusions can be made while the scene of the crime has yet to be determined. That is one thing. Also, your announcement that the Army will be deployed to stop the crime wave has been questioned. Your critics say the cure may be worse than the disease. Can you comment on that? How many soldiers will patrol the country's highways and when will they begin?

[Cristiani] We have told you that we will report on everything that comes from the investigation. Investigating means following certain available leads. The spent cartridges lead us to strong conclusions about where the shooting took place. That does not mean, however, that we are 100-percent sure. We cannot accept the other report as true, either. The goal is to establish how things really happened, as we said when we met with the bishops on 2 July. The leads we have based on the spent

cartridges found indicate the perpetrators belonged to a criminal gang. We are not doing any harm by looking for them and apprehending them. The government is interested in getting to the bottom of the matter. It wants to be certain and have proof to obtain a guilty verdict in court. We also believe that speculation stemming from some leads hampers the investigation because we have two conflicting reports. The goal is to confirm all reports to reach a final result. I read ORIENTACION's 4 July editorial and I totally disagree with it. I would say that it is a bit hasty, if that is how they feel. To say there is a plot against the Salvadoran bishops starting with (Robert de Carlo) and this incident seems to me a bit hasty. It leaves lots of questions hanging. I do no think that is the idea. We have to get to the bottom of the matter. As for the Army patrolling highways, I respect the San Salvador Archbishopric's view on this. The Catholic Church's statement is a little more extensive. We believe we have done everything in our power and are working to eradicate crime in the country. Despite the enormous efforts, problems continue. Perhaps if an Army patrol had been on the highway, Msgr. Ramos would not have been killed. Patrol operations fall within the mission of the Armed Forces. Their presence will be the deterrent that we seek.

I mean that criminals armed with M-16 rifles will not walk the streets if soldiers patrol them. Besides, those rifles can be immediately confiscated based on the agreement that only the Armed Forces may use that type of weapon.

We believe it is still too early to judge the measure as if it had already yielded negative results. We are implementing the measure to prevent crime, not combat it. The public security corps [words indistinct] and the two police institutions will continue to fight crime. The presence of resolute Armed Forces personnel is only to deter criminals from attacking people as they are doing now, even in broad daylight. I also think it is too soon to say that the cure is worse than the disease.

In regard to how many soldiers there will be and where they will be stationed, on 2 July I instructed the defense minister to prepare a program addressing those matters and it is still not finished. The program will use enough soldiers to be able to patrol the areas where more thefts occur, based on our information and statistics.

The action is not an operation against anyone in particular. The soldiers will simply patrol several areas where the government or, better said, the Armed Forces already carries out training patrol exercises. As you know, our troops have to be trained constantly. Soldiers must not be allowed to stand idle. Military exercises are held everywhere in the world. Thus, if the soldiers have to do military exercises, let them practice in areas where the crime rate is highest. That is what this is all about. [passage omitted]

FMLN's Shafik Handal Criticizes Use of Army To Fight Crime

PA0707225793 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Shafik Handal, general coordinator of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], has criticized the deployment of Army troops in various areas to fight crime. According to Handal, this represents a threat to the people, who are demanding that the police provide protection.

Handal said the deployment of Army troops along the country's roads violates the Constitution and the peace agreements. He said the measure will not reduce crime.

[Begin Shafik Handal recording] The country needs the police and not the Army to fight crime. The Army is not trained to fight criminals. The country does not need more rifles in the streets because this increases the possibility of more shooting. Crime will increase, weapons will continue to be lost, and they will end up in the hands of criminals. [end recording]

On 5 July, the FMLN leader presented a resident of the San Salvador volcano area, who told the media that members of the 1st Infantry Brigade are committing crimes in that area.

[Begin unidentified resident recording] The problems began. They began to beat up people and steal from houses. An armed group arrived at night at Mr. Hipolito Salazar's and demanded 400 colones or he would be killed. He had to ask some neighbors to lend him money to pay them. [end recording]

Shafik Handal said President Alfredo Cristiani has little interest in protecting citizens. Handal urged him to issue measures to solve the security problem caused by the activities of heavily armed bands. He said such measures should not violate the Constitution and the Chapultepec agreements.

Copaz Creates Commission To Verify Weapons Destruction

PA0807232793 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, Copaz, on 6 July decided to create a commission that will verify the destruction of Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] weapons and the collection of Armed Forces' regulation weapons in civilian hands.

Mario Aguinada Carranza of the Democratic Convergence and a Copaz member stated that the decision is the result of a request to Copaz by government representatives.

[Begin Aguinada Carranza recording] Copaz is concerned by a report by the UN secretary general, dated 21 May, in which he describes as serious faults in the

fulfillment of the agreements the FMLN weapons possession and the fact that Armed Forces regulation weapons are still circulating, both of which he believes go against the country's democratic stabilization.

Copaz decided to create a special commission that will supervise the fulfillment of both the destruction of the FMLN weapons and the collection of weapons from private citizens.

Likewise, Copaz determined that when it deems it advisable the special commission created on this date will be able to handle other affairs in the military package of the agreements. Copaz, as an overseer and control organization and not a biased group, has decided to create this commission to watch over the two issues. [end recording]

This commission will also take care of other aspects related to the agreements that were reached on military matters, Deputy Aguinada Carranza pointed out.

Rodolfo Parker, temporary Copaz coordinator and government representative to Copaz, said that the decision to form the commission is a good idea inasmuch as the two sides still do not trust each other.

[Begin Parker recording] There are, in fact, many things of which we do not feel very confident. The UN secretary general has voiced a certain mistrust. Our basic interest is to strengthen and recover the credibility of the process. We do not want any more [words indistinct]. We want to prevent.... [pauses] We want to help the FMLN get rid of that situation whereby weapons have been kept hidden. That situation led to the most serious noncompliance with the peace agreements. [end recording]

On 12 July Copaz members will announce who will form part of that verification commission and later will summon them for their installation.

Supreme Electoral Tribunal Workers Begin Strike

PA0807033993 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] workers began an indefinite strike on 6 July to demand a 600-colones salary increase and better working conditions. The strike paralyzes work being carried out on a census and issuance of voting cards for approximately 673,000 persons who still lack the document. The workers demand the TSE magistrates meet a series of demands.

[Begin unidentified TSE worker recording] We demand a general increase of 600 colones for all TSE workers. We also demand payment of past due expense accounts, which have yet to be paid this year. Political parties.... [pauses] political party leaders at the national, departmental, and municipal level should not be allowed to interfere in the workers' affairs. [end recording]

These are the conditions under which dozens of TSE employees work. That is why they demand an improvement of their working conditions. Employees affiliated with the Association of Supreme Electoral Tribunal Workers [Asociacion de Trabajadores del Tribunal Supremo Electoral] claim the census, electoral card issuance, and electoral registry activities are totally paralyzed. They hold TSE officials responsible for the situation.

[Begin TSE worker recording] The TSE magistrates can solve the problem. The problem can be solved in a short time if they are capable of doing their job. The strike will continue for a long time if they are incapable of doing their job. [end recording]

It was learned a proposal will be issued to create a tripartite commission—with TSE representatives, workers, and members of the Legislative Assembly Finance Commission—to review the possibility of meeting their demands and the feasibility of increasing the TSE budget so it may raise the employees' salaries.

PCN Names Bustillo as Presidential Candidate

PA0807001893 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Report by Maria Teresa Fajardo]

[Text] General Juan Rafael Bustillo was described on 6 July as a person of high moral values and vast experience as he was named presidential candidate for the National Conciliation Party [PCN]. PCN Secretary General Ciro Cruz said the retired general is fully qualified to run for the presidency, and thus, was elected PCN candidate unanimously.

Meanwhile, Gen. Bustillo, who served in the Salvadoran Army for 37 years, said he will return to the political arena to struggle for the country's well-being:

[Begin Bustillo recording] The secretary general has praised me and this encourages me to seek paths within the democratic framework to gain in the immediate future a position, which every Salvadoran has an opportunity to reach at this time. [sentence as heard] I wish to tell you I told a local newspaper sometime ago that I would return. I want you to understand that statement correctly. I am not returning to the Armed Forces but becoming a member of a political party. I fulfilled my duties as a soldier and respected the laws of the Republic and the Constitution as well as other people's rights. I am proud of having served in our country's Armed Forces.

I am entering a new arena now. I am now also ready to struggle for the well-being of my country; for our fatherland. I wish to see a great El Salvador. I want Salvadorans to know I am back. I am back to urge you to join the PCN. I am back to urge you to follow me. I am back to win the election together with you. [end recording]

Gen. Juan Rafael Bustillo downplayed constant criticism from segments of the population that disagree with military officers joining politics. As for reference to him in a report drafted by the Truth Commission that

investigated top military leaders who were responsible for human rights violations during the war, the retired soldier said:

[Begin Bustillo recording] Time has revealed the truth, that is, the meaning of the composition [contenido] of the Truth Commission. We now know, not only at home but abroad, that the report has been discredited. The charges it leveled against other officers and I were discredited totally. I do not think it contains facts. Its members failed to follow the appropriate steps; I am referring to a scientific procedure. The commission simply collected rumors that interested parties provided to it in a distorted form. In my opinion the Truth Commission report is invalid, especially in our legal system. [end recording]

After saying his center-right party will win the upcoming elections, the PCN presidential candidate did not rule out the possibility of making political pacts with compatible parties to bring him to the presidency in 1994.

Guatemala

President Proposes OAS, UN Serve as Mediators in Dialogue With URNG

PA0907015193 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0114 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio proposed on 8 July that the OAS and the United Nations serve as mediators in the peace dialogue with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) guerrillas, whose political representatives will be allowed to reenter the country.

De Leon made the statement while reporting on the position he will adopt as of now regarding talks with the guerrillas and the search for peace in Guatemala, the only Central American country where an armed conflict exists.

He said he grants "the necessary guarantees" to the URNG political representatives so they can reenter the country to hold talks with other groups.

The president's announcement, above all his allowing former rebels to reenter Guatemala, constitutes a 180-degree turn in the quest for peace in this country.

De Leon also proposed that Bishop Rodolfo Quezada, coordinator of the former peace process, coordinate a permanent peace forum in Guatemala with the participation of all sectors.

Nicaragua

Pereira Says Reduction of U.S. Aid Will Not Have 'Great Impact' on Economy

PA0807163493 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Pablo Pereira, economy and development minister, said the aid reduction announced by the United States will not have a great impact on the Nicaraguan economy because the Chamorro administration knew of the decision and planned accordingly in formulating economic policy for the next two years.

Pereira said aid coming from other friendly organizations and governments that have promised to help Nicaragua will compensate for the reduction by the Clinton administration. The minister added that Nicaragua will advance with the assertive work of all Nicaraguans who want to work for their fatherland. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Cut 'Not Act of Aggression'

PA0807222193 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Contrary to what [word indistinct] economists may think, Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger said the government does not regard as a low blow the proposal by the Clinton administration to lower aid for 1994 to $66 million from the $109 million that had been planned. The official, who is also a member of the government economic cabinet, said the Clinton administration's decision is a fact in Latin America. It is not because we are no longer a strategic region for the United States, he added. Mr. Kruger said Nicaragua has to draw closer to multilateral organizations to obtain more money. He said the Nicaraguan people must be told the cuts are part of U.S. foreign policy and not an act of aggression against our country.

Foreign Minister Leal Visits Taiwan

PA0807180593 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Report by Maria Elsa Suarez]

[Text] The Taiwan company (Min Sin) is setting up an export clothing manufacturing company in the free zone. The company sent 18 workers to Taiwan to learn the latest in clothing manufacturing technology. Construction of the factory is already under way in the free zone, and the facility will be operational at the end of this year. Monthly exports will total $250,000.

[Begin recording Serigo Zamora, industrial free zone official] We estimate an initial investment of $5 million. This is basically a jeans factory that will employ 1,800 Nicaraguan workers. [end recording]

Taiwan and Nicaragua are strengthening cooperation ties. Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal met with the Taiwan

president in Taipei on 7 July. The Nicaraguan official will have a busy schedule of bilateral meetings during his visit. He will decorate Taiwan Foreign Minister Frederick Chien and former Foreign Minister Chang-fan. Leal will then be decorated by the Taiwanese Government. The Nicaraguan Government is planning to ask Taiwan for a new loan.

[Begin recording, unidentified official at Taiwanese Embassy in Nicaragua] I think our governments will [passage indistinct] no more than $30 million. [end recording]

Taiwanese Delegation Prepares Project for Small Business Sector

PA0807170993 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Jul 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] A delegation from the Republic of China (Taiwan) led by Andrew S.L. Lin, director of international economic cooperation, is visiting Nicaragua to prepare a technical assistance project for the small business sector. The delegation will study small businesses in Nicaragua, their education level, production capacity, level of technology, receptivity to change, and training possibilities. It will also determine which institutions provide financial and training support and how much technical assistance for organization and production, market access, and tax incentives are provided.

Pablo Pereira, economy and development minister, said his ministry will provide the visiting mission with a broad overview of the small business sector so it can adequately draw up the technical assistance project.

Pereira said it is important for those who will provide technical assistance to find out which machinery, tools, and technology can help the small business sector increase its productivity, efficiency, and the quality of its products.

Pereira said that to achieve that goal, the mission has scheduled visits to small workshops and meetings with officials in charge of programs that help small businesses.

Andrew S.L. Lin, head of the delegation, said that Nicaragua has sufficient natural resources to begin successful economic development.

The Taiwan official said Nicaragua has optimum conditions for foreign investment, indicating that "its best asset is its people, who are very hardworking."

Lin Chih-cheng, Taiwan's ambassador to Nicaragua, said the Taiwan private sector is interested in investing in Nicaragua's sugar and fishing industries. "This country is wealthy in those resources," the diplomat commented.

He also announced that the government of the Republic of China will grant Nicaragua a $30-million credit to promote programs to help small businesses.

The Governments of Nicaragua and the Republic of China on different occasions have expressed their desire to cooperate closely in foreign investment and small business development.

Panama

New U.S. Army South Commander Pays 'Courtesy Call' on Public Works Minister

PA0807224193 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 8 Jul 93 p 10

[Text] Brigadier General George A. Crocker, commander of the U.S. Army South in Panama, paid a courtesy call on Panamanian Public Works Minister Alfredo Arias Grimaldo recently.

During the friendly meeting, both officials spoke about past Fuertes Caminos projects that have solved problems successfully in many of the country's remote areas. The projects mainly covered the building and repair of agricultural access roads, health centers, and water wells.

The recently appointed U.S. Army South commander in Panama was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Miguel Gonzalez, chief of the Southern Command's Latin American Affairs Division, and Mr. Don Paarlberg, a representative of the U.S. Embassy in Panama. Laurencio Guardia Conte, Panamanian deputy public works minister, also attended the meeting.

The high-ranking Panamanian Government officials and U.S. military officers started initial contacts to coordinate their actions for the "Fuertes Caminos-94" projects. It was reported that the 1994 projects will be carried out in Darien Province.

Argentina

Guerrilla Leader del Aguila Deserts MRTA, Surrenders to Police

PY0807202193 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1831 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Lima, 8 Jul (AFP-NA)—The police reported on 8 July that guerrilla leader Jose "Jota Jota" del Aguila has deserted the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] on advice from his mother and on 7 July handed himself in to authorities in San Miguel, in the Peruvian Amazon.

The insurgent, who arrived in Tarapoto, some 800 km northeast of Lima, was received by representatives of human rights organizations and was taken to a military camp where he handed over his grenades, rifles, ammunition, and communications equipment, according to the report.

He said he surrendered "to comply with his mother's request, because he was tired of running away, because it was useless to confront the forces of order, and because he wanted to be sheltered by the repentance law" in effect in Peru.

The authorities, who consider the surrender of this regional guerrilla leader important, noted that more than 200 MRTA members have so far surrendered, providing important data for the capture of other insurgents.

Another police report states that on 7 July MRTA armed groups attacked and robbed two buses on the Andean Huancayo-La Merced highway, some 300 km east of Lima, burning one of them and depriving the passengers of the two buses of their belongings.

On the same day in Lima, according to the police, strongly armed terrorists also seized two trucks loaded with food products, subduing the drivers and their assistants. Despite an intensive search the trucks have not yet been found, but according to the report it is possible they were abandoned somewhere in the outskirts of the city.

Bolivia

Coca Farmers Union Leader Rejects Idea of Legalizing Drug Trade

PY0907010193 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 27 Jun 93 p 8

[Text] (ERBOL)—Coca farmers union leader Evo Morales has rejected the idea of legalizing the drug trade in Bolivia as a way of controling drug trafficking, as suggested by certain U.S. intellectuals and certain Bolivian politicians.

"Drugs as such are totally alien to the Andean culture," Morales said, maintaining that the only ones who will benefit from their legalization would be the industrialized countries.

He added that the debate over whether to legalize drugs presents false alternatives, hiding the problems faced by Peruvian and Bolivian coca producers as a consequence of the illegal industrialization of this product.

"Right now our task is concentrated on having coca, which is the raw material for cocaine, erased from the list of narcotics," he said.

Morales said that coca producers entirely favor the legalization of this ancient product and that their petition to allow free coca trade on international markets is not meant as a legalization of cocaine.

"It is one thing to industrialize coca for lawful and medical purposes, while it is something entirely different if it is industrialized as a drug," he said.

Within this framework Morales said that peasant leaders have become members of a technical-juridical committee, which together with the government, is analyzing a draft resolution regulating the industrialization of coca leaves.

This committee, which has been formed thanks to the agreement signed between the peasant confederation and the government, should have completed its tasks and presented its draft resolution two months after beginning work.

Nearly four months after the agreement was signed the committee has still not concluded its work, and continues to be delayed, some peasant leaders admitted.

In an agreement with the United States the Bolivian Government has promised to eradicate 6,000 hectares of coca leaf plantations this year. In exchange Bolivia will receive $40 million to be applied against its balance of payments if it complies with this and other conditions.

Morales said that the only ones who will lose with the eradication of those 5,000 hectares of coca plantations are the coca peasants.

Coca peasants receive $2,000 for every hectare of coca crops they eradicate, and if they are lucky they might receive $5,000 in credit to plant a new alternative crop.

Morales said that on an average, in order to pay the loans they receive, the peasants must work for five or six years without obtaining any profits.

On the other hand, if the peasants do not eradicate the coca plantations, they could obtain 45,000 Bolivian pesos in net profit.

Morales explained that these are, however, general figures, and that in order to obtain more precise figures it would be necessary to carry out research allowing them to obtain more truthful information.

Labor Federation Leader Criticizes Coca Plantations Eradication Agreement

PY0807214993 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 29 Jun 93 p 8

[Text] The agreement signed recently by the United States and Bolivia to eradicate 6,000 hectares of coca plantations this year has been criticized by Guido Tarqui, leader of the Bolivian Labor Federation.

Tarqui said that the agreement means expelling all coca grower peasants from the coca growing areas, and affects the economic interests and means of survival of this segment.

The union leader explained that although the government, through the agreement, has promised to eradicate 6,000 hectares of coca plantations this year, it is very unlikely it will be able to do so because experience has proven that the alternative development projects are a complete failure.

The only time Bolivia was able to fulfill an agreement to eradicate 5,000 hectares of coca leaves was in 1991, when 250 hectares more then planned were destroyed. In 1992 Bolivia was only able to eradicate 3,200 hectares. It will therefore be difficult to fulfill the goal established by the United States.

Tarqui voiced his fear that the government or the specialized forces may use another method to force coca producers to replace their coca plantations, because none of them will do so voluntarily.

Guido Tarqui asserted: "We are certain the coca growers will not eradicate the 6,000 hectares, and this will force the government to resort to violence against them, which will in turn unleash unprecedented violence."

The coca growers will continue planting coca in the Chapare region, because it is the only product that allows more than 20,000 families in the area to survive.

Regarding the alternative development project, Tarqui explained that it has not yielded significant results in the seven years it has been in force as "not even 0.05 percent progress has been made."

This has happened because the majority of the projects were designed unilaterally, without the coca growers' participation.

The peasants who chose to replace their coca plantations were not granted technical assistance, nor the means to sell the products they harvested with great effort.

This has proven that coca is the only product that is profitable to the inhabitants of the tropical areas in Cochabamba and Yungas de la Paz.

Cochabamba Coca Producers Decide To Continue Coca Cultivation

PY0807125093 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 1 Jul 93 National Section p 1

[Text] Cochabamba—Cochabamba tropical area coca producers decided in their latest plenum meeting to continue cultivating coca "because there is nothing with which to replace it and it is the only way peasants can support their families." This remark was made by William Condori Quiroz, finance secretary of the Tropic Workers Special Federation.

Special Federation leader Felipe Caceres said: "Chapare coca producers will not eliminate one single hectare of coca plantation for the rest of the year. On the contrary, they will increase production in protest over the government's failure to fulfill its promises on alternative development programs."

Caceres also ruled out all possibilities of fulfilling the new agreement between Bolivia and the United States to eliminate 5,000 hectares of coca and 20,000 square meters of nurseries by December in exchange for $40 million in support of the balance of payments and the promotion of stability and economic reactivation. He said voluntary reduction is becoming an obligation.

Caceres condemned the bilateral agreement and the government policy "which insists on eradicating without implementing any alternative development program. This is why this group will not eradicate another hectare of coca until the government fulfills its promises," Caceres said. Meanwhile, Condori recalled the pineapple plantations that were destroyed by a disease and peasants ended up indebted and broke, "without option, but to cultivate coca."

Tropical area leaders have said the Alternative Development Program, PDAR, is in crisis because it does not fulfill the minimum conditions, it is badly conceived, there are no roads, no technical assistance, and no other services. The leaders said that the PDAR is now implementing programs that were slated for 1992.

Federation Executive Secretary Evo Morales also said that there are few possibilities of meeting the replacement goals established for this year because peasants "no longer believe in government offers, and much less in the $2,000 in compensations per hectare that Umopar [Mobile Police Unit for Rural Areas] takes back from the peasants whom they charge with being drug traffickers."

Department Prefect Jaime de Ugarte described the growers announcement that they will replant coca as inconsistent because it will hurt bilateral agreements that benefit peasants. "It will hurt progress on alternative development, which has taken time to implement, but which is beginning to yield results with legal cultivations replacing coca plantations that are linked to drug trafficking," Ugarte said.

Editorial Terms U.S. Ambassador Bowers' Remarks 'Inappropriate'

PY0807205693 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 27 Jun 93 p A5

[Editorial: "The Drug Issue in Bolivian-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] President-elect Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's remarks about a possible legalization of drugs, and the resurrection in the press in recent days of the "Capobianco case," have caused the U.S. Embassy—namely Ambassador Richard Bowers—to pass judgments and adopt attitudes that are inappropriate for a diplomatic mission.

Using a tone that sounded like a warning—even a threat—the U.S. ambassador has questioned the wise remarks made by the president-elect to a Madrid-based magazine. As things stand, it appears that the U.S. diplomat would criticize anyone, not to speak of a Bolivian president, who might find it useful to legalize drugs. The ambassador overlooks the fact that among the growing number of supporters of legalizing drugs is, for instance, former Secretary of State George Shultz, who must have become convinced of the failure of current U.S. drug enforcement strategies during a firsthand evaluation he made while visiting Bolivia, when he was still running U.S. foreign policy.

The U.S. ambassador is also totally mistaken when he states that "the legalization of drugs is unacceptable to both the government and the people of the United States." This is at least an exaggeration on his part, because everyone knows that there are supporters of legalization within every sector of U.S. society and government. Many people even believe that the Clinton administration's approach is favorable to legalization.

Sanchez de Lozada was duly cautious and realistic when he stated that although the idea of legalization he endorses is theoretically flawless, it would be impractical to implement it without the necessary consensus and worldwide safeguards. "If they let me," he said," I would legalize it." The legalization trend is gaining ground in both Bolivia and Colombia. For instance, the leading presidential contender in Colombia endorses Sanchez de Lozada's idea. This trend is spreading primarily because of the failure of a penalizing, repressive strategy that has sparked a growing atmosphere of violence and corruption in Colombia and Peru—and to a lesser degree in Bolivia and elsewhere—and which has caused worse damage to society and to democracy than the drug trade itself.

The U.S. diplomat played a very important role—and he should be credited accordingly—when he publicly noted the implications of the "Capobianco case." Yet the procedure he used to do this was also inappropriate for a diplomat. There are regular channels—the Foreign Ministry—through which a country may convey to another its concern about certain issues, and may attach as needed the necessary evidence, documents, and so forth in such a way that there might exist a normal petition or complaint. These concerns should not be conveyed through remarks to the press or through letters which do not reflect a sound judgment because of their wording and because of to whom they are addressed.

Another evil stemming from the repressive drug enforcement policy is that Bolivian-U.S. relations have been undeniably "narcoticized." Yet even the narcotics issue is not worth much, as it consists of trite coca eradication agreements like the ones recently signed. In this area the United States could have really made a contribution by supplying valuable information, for instance on the Huanchaca case, but the usual U.S. reluctance continues to prevail. As has been reported, the testimony of DEA agent Jesus (Jessy) Gutierrez could play an important part in this case, because he was in Huanchaca, but it is not known why he has shielded himself behind diplomatic immunity in refusing to testify. He is performing new duties in El Paso, Texas.

Brazil

Franco Sends Letter to Japanese Prime Minister

PY0907015993 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Jul 93 p 11

[Text] Tokyo—President Itamar Franco has sent Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, host of the Group of Seven [G-7] summit, a five-page document asking for an "objective reevaluation of the basic profile" of Brazil. The argument is based on the new role that the developing countries allegedly ought to play in "the new world order."

The letter mentions the report recently released by the IMF, which has readjusted the calculation system of the Third World contribution to world production based on the real purchasing power of every currency. Taking as a base the new purchasing power parity index, the figure has allegedly doubled to 34 percent. In this manner, the Brazilian economy should have the same weight as the French or Italian economy.

"The G-7 has already demonstrated great sensitivity and a cooperative sense toward other countries also faced with economic adjustments," Itamar states. "I thus consider it timely to ask for a special examination of the specific nature of the great challenge Brazil is currently facing."

The message was transmitted on 5 July by Brazilian Ambassador in Tokyo Paulo Pires do Rio. According to the message Brazil, the eighth world economy in industrial production and ninth in PIB [Internal Domestic Product] terms, is facing difficulties in its foreign trade field, just as are the members of the G-7.

"The adoption of protectionist measures and the imposition of customs barriers and noncustoms barriers, in a flagrant denial of the general principles of free trade, is

unfairly and unwisely taxing many Brazilian export articles," the document states.

Franco also asks for an end to "rigid" demands for the resumption of credit and investment. An example is the Export-Import Bank of Japan (Eximbank), which conditions loans to an agreement between the Brazilian Government and the international financial community.

Brazil made another appeal to the developed countries through the joint message of the Group of 15, made up of Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Indonesia, among others. The main points mentioned are the need for eradicating poverty and encouraging economic growth.

Federal Police Officers 'Threatening' To Begin Strike 12 Jul

PY0807160593 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Federal Police [PF] officers are threatening to begin a strike on Monday, 12 July. The director of the Federation of Federal Police Officers [Federacao dos Policias Federais] has said that the strike could jeopardize ongoing efforts to comply with an arrest warrant issued a week ago against entrepreneur Paulo Cesar Farias. It has been confirmed that the strike will be observed in seven states, including Alagoas State where PF forces have been mobilized to hunt for Farias.

PF officers are demanding that the government comply with two laws that establish a proportional system of salaries for police officers and police chiefs.

(Fernando Lorato), a member of the police federation, denied allegations that policemen are taking advantage of Farias' escape to exert pressure on the government. He charged that the PF is going through a chaotic situation, because its accrued debt totals 500 billion cruzeiros.

Justice Minister Mauricio Correa has threatened to take tough measures against PF officers if their strike harms the search for Farias or jeopardizes security at the Ibero-American conference. Correa said that if the strike materializes, the government will adopt every measure to manage the situation by placing Army troops or civilian police personnel on the streets to guarantee public order.

Correa said that he has made every effort to meet the demands of PF personnel but noted that the issue is not entirely in his hands.

Correa also denied reports on negotiations to appoint Carlos Lacerda as the chief of the PF unified command.

Estado Group Establishes 'Real-Time Services'

PY0807194493 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Jul 93 p 11

[Text] The Estado Group has already gained a foothold in the multimedia market. The ESTADO News Agency [AE] has been offering several products for two and a half years and fanning out its services under its principal activity—information. The Estado Group tries to follow the latest advances in telecommunications and has established real-time services, which can be provided on a more frequent basis than newspapers and other specific services for certain events like the Ibero-American Summit, which will take place this month [15-17 July] in Salvador, Bahia. On this occasion, the Iberofax will be distributed among the participants.

The group provides the services of Broadcast, which provides companies with rates of currency exchange, among other things. It also has a real-time news service—Broadcast's AE News—a powerful tool for business decisions. Real-time news is objectively displayed on the computer terminals of about 2,000 subscribers. Another product offered by the group is called Estado in the Air, a telephone service created for Sao Paulo State capital. It provides economic information together with updated reports and quotations to those who dial 900-0700.

The AE provides information by fax on services called FaxPaper and Newspaper. The former provides economic and political information until midday, Monday through Friday, while the latter is a compilation of the most salient news published by the country's leading newspapers. Both services are also available electronically to those subscribers who want to receive the information on their computer terminals.

The success of these initiatives has encouraged the group to develop new products like Construfax, a biweekly report for the construction industry.

* Defects in IPR Bill Passed By Lower House Seen

93SM0323A Sao Paulo EXAME in Portuguese 9 Jun 93 pp 34, 35

[Unattributed article: "The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same"]

[Text] The patent law soap opera is by no means nearing its final episode, but we can already predict an unhappy ending. The delay of more than two years in Congressional passage of modern legislation on intellectual property has resulted in the opening of an investigation by the United States into Brazil's unfair economic practices. The inquiry will probably result in application of trade sanctions before the year is out. The outcome is predictable not merely because of the successive postponements of the final vote on the subject; it flows from the very content of the text now being debated in Congress. In comparing Brazil with other countries (see chart), we can see that if the accord reached in the Chamber of Deputies stands, this country will still have a cripple of a law, one that leaves the doors wide open to piracy. Except for India and Thailand, no other country leaves open so many possibilities for cheating in intellectual property.

The preliminary bill passed by the House, to which more than 100 provisions requiring separate votes [known as

destaques] have been attached, bears the marks of the delay. One example is the provision on compulsory licensing, a feature included in the legislation of developed countries to safeguard the public interest against potential manipulation of patent rights. If the holder of a patent does not use it, the government reserves the right to require issuance of a license to another company to use the patent. However, under the law being discussed in Congress, compulsory licensing serves mainly to safeguard the copying rights of pirates.

The House decided to require the holder of a patent to exploit the product in Brazil after registration is granted. If the owner of the invention opts to produce it outside Brazil, for reasons of cost or economic efficiency, he risks being compelled to grant a license to work the patent. "That would be inconsistent with precepts of economic internationalization, and weakens the patent mechanism itself," said Gustavo Morais, of Dannemann, Siemsen, Bigler & Ipanema Moreira, a firm specializing in patents. Morais notes that although the same provision also exists in Japan, it has never been used there. The government in Argentina submitted a bill that also calls for compulsory licensing, but that considers importation of the product as a valid exploitation of a patent. The same is true in Mexico and Italy.

Market Reserve

Absence of the pipeline [preceding word in English] is another aspect of the bill that favors only defrauders. The text of the substitute bill offered by Rio Grande do Norte Deputy Ney Lopes (PFL) [Liberal Front Party] provided for pipeline rights. That is, Brazil would begin recognizing product patents registered in other countries but so far not yet protected in Brazilian territory because of the absence of legislation. Pharmaceuticals are a typical case. A pipeline provision would force plagiarizers to stop their piracy or else start paying royalties to the author of the invention. Although it is a matter of elementary justice, legislators saw the pipeline as an abuse and so defeated it. They swapped the original text for a new one that recognizes only product patents that have not yet been registered abroad.

"This is a market reserve for piracy," said Lopes. The consequence is that 90 percent of the approximately 1,500 medicines now being developed in the world, formulas still in the testing phase, will be able to be copied freely in Brazil. It is not just chance that multinational laboratories who are responsible for 75 percent of pharmaceuticals sales in Brazil are looking warily at the House decision. Deputy Ney Lopes sees the losses from a broader standpoint. "Without the pipeline, many companies will not want to invest in manufacturing a product in Brazil that is not protected," he said. "So Brazil will not absorb technology, and will lose the chance to create new jobs." Furthermore, Brazil will be at a disadvantage vis-a-vis countries like Chile and Mexico, who have adopted the pipeline in their legislation.

These aspects do not seem to worry the congressmen very much. Nor do they appear very interested in the negative effects that a law that is a mere facade could have for Brazilian researchers. This is the case with the chapter on biotechnology. "It is a field where Brazil has made important progress, but more could be done if there were adequate protection of new inventions," said Morais, of the patents firm. The congressmen do not see it that way. In fact, on this point in the bill they preferred to yield to the arguments of the Catholic Church. Because of pressure from the CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops], the text has been so dehydrated that it hardly mentions the subject. Very little was left. Only microorganisms used in an industrial process and that result in an end-product will be patentable in Brazil. That is, to the congressmen, a microorganism that prevents yogurt from spoiling quickly in the refrigerator is patentable, but another microorganism that, modified, helps in the invention of a new medicine does not get the same treatment. This is precisely why one can anticipate continuance of a situation where Brazilian scientists are forced to register their inventions in another country in order to safeguard their rights.

Although the voting process is not yet finished, there are legislators who think the damage has already been done. "Unfortunately, some Brazilians are living in the prehonesty period," said Sao Paulo Deputy Delfim Netto (PPR) [Progressive Renewal Party]. "They cannot resist a little more pirating." Others still hold out a slim hope of making the bill more modern. Deputy Ney Lopes is one of these. He announced that he is going to resubmit the proposal to include the pipeline. In addition, he is counting on the effects of changes that have occurred in the government. "Minister Fernando Henrique, because of his international experience and comprehensive understanding of the economy, may exercise positive pressure," Lopes said. Let us hope so. One thing is sure, if that does not happen, the consequences are predictable. Besides the U.S. sanctions, Brazil will be forfeiting a fresh chance to compete under better terms with countries that have already modernized their intellectual property laws. These are countries that, for this reason too, are front-runners in the race for attracting foreign investment. It is up to Congress to decide whether Brazil belongs in their company, or with India—another country on the black list for the retaliations promised by the Americans.

The Crux of the Problem
Where the bill now in Congress is more restrictive than legislation adopted by other countries

MEXICO	
Patent Duration	20 years. In the case of pharmaceuticals, when Mexican companies are licensed, duration can be 23 years.
Compulsory License	May be granted if holder does not work the patent within three years, or because of public interest. Importing the product is considered working the patent.
Biotechnology	Plant species or varieties, animal species, and genetic materials cannot be patented. Micro-organisms are patentable.
Pipeline	Only in cases when the product is not in use in Mexico, and for the remaining life of the patent registered abroad.
INDIA	
Patent Duration	14 years from date of filing
Compulsory License	May be granted if, after three years of patent registration, patent is not being worked in India or because of economic abuse. Importing the product does not constitute working the patent.
Biotechnology	Micro-organisms are not patentable, nor are processes used in agriculture or plant species. Pharmaceutical products require special patents.
Pipeline	India does not recognize the principle.
ITALY	
Patent Duration	20 years from date of filing, and as long as 25 years for pharmaceuticals.
Compulsory License	May be granted if patent not worked in any of the EEC countries within three years following registration.
Biotechnology	Animal varieties not patentable except in special cases.
Pipeline	As in the Brazilian bill, pipeline does not exist in Italy.
ARGENTINA (proposed)	
Patent Duration	20 years from date of filing.
Compulsory License	Granted if patent holder has not worked it within three years, if there is abuse of economic power, or for reasons of public interest. Importing the product is considered working the patent.
Biotechnology	Micro-organisms are patentable, provided not present in nature.
Pipeline	Only in those cases when product does not exist in Argentina, and for the remaining life of the patent registered abroad.
JAPAN	
Patent Duration	20 years from date of filing, and as long as 25 years for pharmaceuticals.
Compulsory License	May be granted if patent is not worked in Japan within three years, or for reasons of public interest.
Biotechnology	Any product may be patented, without exception.
Pipeline	Does not exist in the law.
BRAZIL	
Patent Duration	20 years for invention patents and 15 for utility models, beginning on date of filing.
Compulsory License	May be granted if three years have elapsed since patent was registered and holder has not worked it in Brazil, or if there is abuse of economic power.
Biotechnology	Only micro-organisms integrated into a specific industrial process that result in another end-product can be patented.
Pipeline	Does not exist: only products not yet patented in another country can be patented in Brazil.

Chile

Bishop Carlos Camus Releases Pastoral Letter on Human Rights

PY0807025093 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Linares Bishop Monsignor Carlos Camus today released a pastoral letter entitled Justice or Peace in which he discusses the current dilemma of Chilean society on the serious human rights problems.

The bishop remarks that the tensions created between the government and the Army that have brought the great moral dilemma to the surface must be faced in the country sooner or later. All the countries that have lived through a dictatorship with human rights violations have had to overcome a tremendous problem to return to total democracy, the bishop states in his message.

How will justice be attained without placing peace at risk, Msgr. Carlos Camus asks. The military governments, he states, governed by force. They do not know how to govern otherwise because, he says, they are prepared for war and all wars are violent. Some of them have gone to the extreme of allowing torture and murder. The bishop states: They should be judged by impartial

and moderate judges, if they exist, so that the victims' relatives will thus have a right to justice. And who would deny them this right, the bishop's letter states.

However, the problem is that these are not common criminals but members of a former regime that sheltered or at least tolerated their excesses, believing they were preventing a worse evil—such is the excuse given. Many of these members were military men, the bishop states.

Now it is said that if a reconciliation is sought, one must not look into the past but into the future, Msgr Camus says. But can this convince the victims? Can a few be sacrificed for the well-being of the majority? Is this moral, the Linares bishop asks.

Later on he says that looking into the future, as is lightly asserted, means leaving the crimes committed in impunity, crimes that are very serious. Can one declare an amnesty when the entire truth has not been clarified and justice has not been done? Can the victims be asked to forgive when they feel they are being laughed at? Can a definite peace be attained like this? These are the many questions asked by Bishop Carlos Camus, who has worked closely with human rights victims.

In his pastoral letter, Msgr. Camus states that it is true that most of the people have not suffered as much and that they want to forget the past. This is understandable but very selfish, he states. Peace presupposes forgiveness, but no one can be forced to forgive because forgiveness is an act of love and therefore it must be free, the bishop states.

The Linares bishop ends his letter by saying: The military has a great sense of pride and this is good because it is the basis of unity and discipline, but must this unity reach the point of ignoring the excesses that were committed? Can an institution be built with prestige if truth is avoided? Can comradeship force one to become an accomplice to injustice? These are some of the questions asked by Bishop Carlos Camus on the subject of human rights in Chile.

Cuban Doctor Says Fidel Castro 'Fit as Ever'

PY0807015093 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Passages in quotations marks recorded]

[Text] Doctor Eduardo Ordaz, medical doctor for Cuban President Fidel Castro, said it is a lie that Cuban political dissidents are sent to psychiatric institutions. Ordaz is in Chile attending a psychologists' congress, and tomorrow he will visit a mental institution in Santiago. Ordaz was president of the Havana Medical Association during the Batista regime and then became Fidel's doctor. Dr. Ordaz today visited La Moneda Government House, where he was asked whether the crisis caused by the economic blockade also has caused difficulties in the health field in Cuba:

"The privileged in our country or in our government are the ill, because health is a privilege in Cuba, just like education. Although there are some limitations as there must be, I can assure you that so far medical attention for any kind of illness is a priority of our government."

Dr. Ordaz also was asked about Fidel Castro's health, to which he answered that Fidel will be around for a long time:

"[In progress] ... if it was true whether he was very ill or that he did not go out. On the contrary, he is [changes thought] ... he is not as much as that because, in Cuba--it is good that we mention this—the average life expectancy 30 years ago was 45 years, while the current average life expectancy is 75 years. He is barely 60 something, and he is as fit as ever—as fit as ever—and besides, he looks after himself."

Fidel's doctor was asked whether it is true that political opponents in Cuba are sent to psychiatric institutions:

"That is the greatest lie, cowardice, ever; I can tell you that. It is a cowardice just like they said Fidel was dying, just like they said we are thieves, just like they said so many things, just like they speak so much about human rights. When have you seen human rights denied to such a humane, simple, small, and little country like ours? And that such a powerful and totalitarian country does not even let us move? Are these human rights? Those are the people who say those things."

The Cuban doctor reported that many Latin American psychiatrists have been invited to visit Cuba to see for themselves the falseness of these accusations. He also said Chile is a country that has grown greatly politically, economically, socially, and administratively.

Colombia

Italian Honorary Consul Kidnapped in Bucaramanga

PA0907020193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2301 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Bucaramanga (Colombia), 8 Jul (EFE)—Giuseppe Guariglia, Italian businessman and consul to Bucaramanga (Colombia), was kidnapped on 8 July by unidentified persons in this city, the capital of Santander Department (northeastern region), Radio Cadena Nacional (RCN) has reported.

According to police sources, the consul, who was walking in the "Kennedy" neighborhood in Bucaramanga, (some 450 km from Santa Fe de Bogota), was intercepted by three armed persons in front of a marble floor tile factory.

The unidentified persons forced the Italian to board a vehicle and took off for an unknown destination.

Guariglia, 67, has lived for more than 10 years in Bucaramanga and is the Italian honorary consul.

His relatives and consulate employees said they did not know his whereabouts and have not received any message from anyone claiming credit for the kidnapping.

Bucaramanga Police have begun a search that has not yielded positive results as yet, the source added.

Pablo Escobar Attorney Murdered 8 Jul in Medellin

PA0907032093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0231 GMT 9 Jul 93

[Text] Salomon Lozano, Pablo Escobar's attorney, was murdered on the evening of 8 July in Medellin. Lozano was member of the pool of attorneys that until some weeks ago was in charge of Escobar's defense.

The attorney had just left his office in La Ceiba Building with his brother, who was wounded in the attack. The killers were waiting on the sidewalk and fired at least 20 shots at him.

After the attack, the killers fled on a motorcycle down La Playa Avenue, one of downtown Medellin's busiest thoroughfares.

Lozano had served as spokesman for Pablo Escobar's attorneys and had denounced on more than one occasion the threats and harassment that he and his colleagues had received.

This is, undoubtedly, the most serious action carried out by the cartel's enemies in recent days. In spite of the threats, Lozano had no bodyguard. He quit defending Escobar on 1 June to save his life because, according to his own estimation, he had no guarantees in exercising his profession.

Escobar's Relatives Arrive in San Andres

PA0807154893 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Colonel Arnulfo Alzate, commander of the San Andres Police, on San Andres Island by unidentified reporter in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Pablo Escobar Gaviria's relatives are in San Andres after leaving Costa Rica at the invitation of the San Jose Government. San Andres Police Commander Arnulfo Alzate, are Pablo Escobar's relatives being sought by the police in San Andres?

[Alzate] Good morning. According to the latest information, they are not being sought by the authorities. Seven relatives of Pablo Escobar Gaviria arrived in transit from San Jose, Costa Rica aboard flight 505 of SAM airline at 2100 on 7 July. They were met by Administrative Department of Security [DAS] officials who checked their documents to see if they were in order for continued travel to the interior of the country.

[Reporter] When will they travel to the interior?

[Alzate] According to DAS information, they might be traveling aboard an 8 July SAM flight.

[Reporter] Did they spend the night at the DAS offices in San Andres?
[Alzate] They spent the night at a hotel. Security measures were taken to protect their lives.

[Reporter] Did they comment on their stay in San Jose and the Costa Rican Government's order to leave that country?
[Alzate] They did not. They obeyed the Costa Rican Government's order and traveled to Colombia.

[Reporter] Do you have the names of Pablo Escobar's relatives?
[Alzate] Yes, they include his brother and sister, Argimiro Jesus Escobar Gaviria and Luz Marina Escobar de Arteaga, and Leonardo Arteaga Gallego.

[Reporter] He is the husband of Pablo Escobar Gaviria's sister?
[Alzate] Yes. The others are Juan Carlos Martinez Guarniso, an individual who is traveling with them, and minors Mariluz Arteaga Escobar, 12; Pablo Andres Escobar, 12; Leonardo Arteaga, 12; and Sarita Arteaga Escobar, 9. They are nephews and nieces of Pablo Escobar.

Ecuador

Duran-Ballen Announces Decisions Made on Social, Economic Measures

PA0807145493 Quito Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0130 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Speech by President Sixto Duran-Ballen; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] As president of the Republic, I am grateful to all of Ecuador for the efforts and successes. I hereby invite you to maintain this formula for success. By placing the country first, we will achieve important national goals with the appropriate legal tools.

I am not asking you to stop criticizing or expressing opposing views but simply to put basic issues and unavoidable tasks on which we agree ahead of those differences. State modernization, which does not imply privatizing everything or firing everyone, is one of those goals. Keeping up the fight against inflation is another. The implementation of social measures is unavoidable. In that regard, I am pleased to announce that certain decisions are now being executed and others will be made in the next few weeks.

For example, the free medicine program in under way at all Health Ministry hospitals. We have spent 2.5 billion sucres on 36 basic medications, particularly for maternity and infant care. The same can be said about the monthly distribution of 200,000 food donations to lower income families through health centers and subcenters, which constitutes an investment of 12 billion sucres.

In education, the Lets Open Pathways [Abramos Surcos] program is progressing. We will provide 3.2 million textbooks and corresponding workbooks and 48,000 guidebooks for teachers. We have already begun repairs at schools, which is an investment of almost 6 billion sucres. We have established a multisectorial credit program worth 190 billion sucres. The Emergency Fund for Social Investments, FISE, has already presented its first credits for the execution of projects in the country's neediest sectors.

But I will not bore you with every detail. We have made a good start, but much remains to be done. We have been preparing the national generic medicine plan, the expansion of the school breakfast program, the resumption of national housing programs and cultural programs, the true promotion of a national potable water and sewage plan through municipal development loans from the Development Bank of Ecuador, BEDE, an emergency employment and social development plan, the initiation of public projects with recently contracted road construction projects, rehabilitation programs for minors, women's programs, public training programs, and the generation of self-employment through the implementation of various credit programs and the use of payments from voluntary retirements and separations. The cabinet ministers and government employees must explain and expand upon each of these programs over the next few weeks.

As I have often said, we must first establish economic order and discipline in public spending. We must act responsibly within and outside the country to generate resources for new social measures. I say new measures because I can confirm that our economic policy makes social sense because it relentlessly combats inflation. The most recent salary increase was implemented in response to the availability of resources and especially to avoid what usually happens: an inflationary increase that would serve no purpose whatsoever because it would be canceled out by inflation and high prices. Thus we would again have a budgetary (?deficit).

So I believe tonight's announcements are good news. Their execution will largely depend on a strengthening of the spirit of national unity that has been generated in the country.

As you can see, we have worked on various fronts. The country preferred to follow the Americas Cup. I attended 11 of the 25 games to encourage our team and to see the inaugural games at each stadium, but I have not remained absorbed by soccer nor have I been detached. Yes, I participated with you in the joys and disappointments as well as in the hope of continued progress, but I also continued working. I am willing to share with you the sacrifices and progress of the new course our country has taken.

The solidarity of each and every person is essential to the final victory. Progress is always the result of a process, and we have scarcely begun. The hardest and most difficult stage is the take off. If we remain united regardless of candidates, political parties, or economic or political groups, we will go far. Once again I ask you to accept this challenge with optimism and renewed determination. Thank you, Ecuador.

Paraguay

'Sources Close to Wasmosy' Announce Cabinet Appointments

PY0807164593 Lambare Paraguay Radio Cardinal in Spanish 1000 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] President-elect Juan Carlos Wasmosy, who is on a foreign tour, has practically defined those who will be in his cabinet upon his inauguration on 15 August.

Sources close to Wasmosy have announced that the following incumbent ministers will be confirmed in their respective posts: Industry and Commerce Minister Ubaldo Scavone, Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche, and Agriculture and Livestock Minister Raul Venancio Torres.

They also describe the appointment of Nicanor Duarte Frutos as education minister, Diogenes Martinez as foreign minister, and Juan Crisostomo Gaona as justice and labor minister as faits accomplis.

There is, however, strong opposition to the appointment of Jose Enrique Paez as finance minister in light of his performance as president of the Central Bank.

It has also been reported that a retired military officer will again be appointed defense minister.

Wasmosy personally confirmed in Sao Paulo, Brazil, that Hugo Bernardo Saguier Caballero, the Paraguayan ambassador to the United Nations, will be the new secretary general of the presidency.

Wasmosy Announces $1 Billion Itaipu Dam Construction Project

PY0907011893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Jul 93 p 8

[Excerpt] President-elect Juan Carlos Wasmosy, who will be inaugurated on 15 August, announced last night in Sao Paulo, Brazil, that a navigation sluice for the Itaipu dam will be built under his administration. According to estimates this project will cost over $1 billion. The sluice is one of Itaipu's most important unfinished projects, not only for the affected areas but for the entire region, as the dam interrupts the navigation of the important Parana River. The construction work for this project was entrusted by Annex A of 1986 to the Coordination Directorate, which was abruptly eliminated through an illegal document which has been in force against Paraguayan laws since last year.

This surprising information was announced last night by Wasmosy after a meeting with Sao Paulo Mayor Paulo

Maluff, within the framework of the commitments they made to carry out construction to benefit the people of Paraguay and Brazil and to make the integration project through the waterway a reality.

It should be pointed out that the only obstacle between Sao Paulo and the Paraguay River is the Itaipu dam, inasmuch as Sao Paulo uses the Tiete-Parana "waterway." The "forgetfulness" of Itaipu dam contractors is alarming in face of the recent inauguration of the navigation sluice for the Paraguayan-Argentine Yacyreta hydroelectric plant, which allows producers in Misiones Province, Argentina, and in the Alto Parana and Itapua Departments of Paraguay, access to the ports of the Atlantic. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Considering Creation of Joint Chiefs of Staff

PY0907011693 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 8 Jul 93 p 9

[Text] The Armed Forces are slowly beginning to consider the creation of a Joint Chiefs of Staff, taking into account that Congress will probably establish this in replacement of the figure of commander of military forces.

The issue of the Armed Forces Organizational Law was lightly touched upon yesterday by the military chiefs during the regular Wednesday meeting of the commander in chief.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff would be made up of the commanders of the Army, Navy, and the Air Force, and would be headed by a general staff.

In this regard there are several officers who favor the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as it would not take away the rights of the commander in chief, and decisions would be made jointly, so that a determined opinion would not prevail without the consent of the others.

But the military leadership is inclined toward the commander of military forces, as held by Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit. If this position is approved, he would have to be promoted to admiral.

The position headed by Gonzalez Petit was created last December without even a draft law in this regard.

Neighboring countries have Joint Chiefs of Staff. In Argentina the staff is made up of the Army, Navy, and Air Force commanders. The same situation exists in Brazil, where the predominant organization is the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Military Exercises To Conclude 10 Jul

PY0907000493 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 8 Jul 93 p 8

[Text] Military exercises have been confirmed for 10 July at 0800 in Limpio, Emboscada, and on the coast of the Paraguay River.

For the past 15 days and within the framework of the military school term, the Army, Navy, and Air Force have been carrying out joint maneuvers with the objective of maintaining military personnel trained for any emergency situation.

The joint operations began on 23 June in Limpio, Arroyos y Esteros, Emboscada, and at the artillery command in Paraguari.

In principle, the maneuvers were supposed to conclude yesterday, but for organizational reasons it was decided to end them on 10 July. The commander of the joint forces is Army Commander General Pedro Ocampos, and his aide is General Evaristo Gonzalez, director of the "Mariscal Francisco Solano Lopez" military school.

Plans To Grant Asylum to Escobar Relatives Denied

PY0907000893 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 8 Jul 93 p 22

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken said yesterday that Paraguay has not received any visa applications from relatives of Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria, adding that the government will not grant them if they are requested. Paraguay has been mentioned as a possible country of asylum for Escobar Gaviria's relatives, who are in Chile.

Yesterday the minister said emphatically that the relatives of Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria have not submitted any visa applications to enter the country seeking asylum.

"If the applications are submitted, I will advise the government to refuse them," Alexis Frutos Vaesken told NOTICIAS. Paraguay is one of the alternative countries that have been mentioned to solve the matter.

Somewhat surprised by the question of whether the Foreign Ministry had received the visa applications, Frutos Vaesken hurried to answer emphatically that "no applications have been received." The minister added that if an application is presented "I will advise the executive branch to refuse Escobar relatives's visas to enter the country." [passage omitted]

Peru

Free Market Economy Institute Presents Own Draft Constitution

PY0807010793 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 26 Jun 93 p A4

[Excerpt] The Free Market Economy Institute yesterday presented to the public its own draft constitution in an attempt to participate in the national debate on the new constitution that will rule the country in the future.

Former Economy Minister Carlos Bolona Behr, president of the institute, attended the ceremony to present

the document. Alberto Bustamante Belaunde, who was directly responsible for the project, and journalist Federico Salazar also were present.

The presentation of the proposal, entitled Basis for a Constitutional Change, was made by Bustamante Belaunde—who directed the team that discussed and elaborated the final draft. The document was presented during a news conference at the Pancho Fierro Hall of El Olivar Hotel in the San Isidro district.

The project's main characteristic is its conciseness; it has only 80 articles. The authors have tried to prevent the constitution from becoming the simple "description of a model society" and the text from falling into theoretical explanations and mere propositions without effective content. The authors also set aside norms that "are impossible to fulfill." [passage omitted]

CCD Eliminates 70 Articles in Latest Constitution Draft

PY0807005593 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Jun 93 p A4

[Excerpt] In a race against time, today the Constitutional Committee of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] will begin reviewing the new draft of the constitution—the third one—containing 221 articles that was presented by the New Majority- Change 90 bloc.

Compared with the two previous drafts, this one has an average of 70 articles less.

The Constitutional Committee president said they are working to create "a modern constitution, suitable to present circumstances, balanced, and which will aim at solving the country's problems."

"The new constitution will be basically oriented to putting the country on its feet, enticing investments, and creating new jobs," the committee president said.

According to the agenda initially approved by the ruling party majority, the new constitution's text should be approved by the Congress plenum on 28 July before it is submitted to the people through a referendum.

According to the schedule, the CCD will have to debate and approve the referendum law establishing a mechanism regulating the implementation of the initiative during August.

It then will be possible to hold the referendum in September or October. These are tentative dates because we still must consider the National Electoral Court's ability to prepare all the needed documents for the referendum on that date. [passage omitted]

CCD 'Relinquishing Dangerous Ground' to Executive Branch

PY0707233493 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Jun 93 p A4

[From the "Without Confirmation" column by Alfonso Baella Tuesta]

[Text] The mechanisms that are being used to approve the draft of the new constitution are a clear demonstration of how the autonomy and sovereignty of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] have been diminished by the current regime.

In addition, opposition spokesmen have said it reflects the secondary role being given to the legislative branch in the new constitution.

Thus, the authority to ratify not only the members of the top military command and the National Police, but also the members of the diplomatic corps, the former Senate had will be something lost in the past if the pertinent clause, which already has been approved, prospers.

Regarding its legislative authority, the CCD is relinquishing dangerous ground to the executive branch when it permits the president to promulgate part of a law and challenge another part.

It must be recalled that during this government's first two years, the executive branch challenged part of the Budget Law and approved the rest of it, something that caused one of the most serious conflicts of that time.

Summary of Opinions on Subjects Included in New Constitution Draft

PY0707221293 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Jul 93 p A4

[Text] After several days of publishing constitutional experts' opinions about five specific subjects included in the new draft of the Constitution, EL COMERCIO offers today—the day the Constituent Assembly starts debating the draft—a summary of the different opinions that have been published. This is a contribution that those who have the great responsibility of drafting the new Constitution may find useful.

The Death Penalty

Opinions Against

—An innocent person may be sentenced.
—It is not a crime deterrent.
—The San Jose Human Rights Convention must be upheld.
—The right of jurisdiction before the Inter-American Court may be lost.

Opinions in Favor

—Because society must defend itself with all means available.

—It is a crime deterrent; and, therefore, it will decrease terrorism.

Reelection of Incumbent President

Opinions Against

—The incumbent president may use government means to promote his candidacy.
—There is a tendency to abuse of power.
—Traditionally, the Constitution establishes reelections in nonconsecutive terms.

Opinions in Favor

—To prevent it is to limit the freedom of electors to reassert their support for the incumbent president.
—It is common practice in the majority of democratic countries.
—It allows the incumbent president to continue implementing his government program.

Education

—Municipalities must offer their cooperation in elementary and secondary school education.
—Parents must participate in the education program.
—There must be free education for those who cannot afford it.

Regionalization

Opinions Against

—It leads to macronationalism.
—We have had a negative experience.

Opinions in Favor

—It allows each region to decide its own destiny.
—It decentralizes power through the establishment of local governments.

Government Structure

Opinions Against

—It concentrates power in the presidency.
—The dissolution of Congress undermines the balance of power.
—The partial veto of the law distorts its essence.
—A single-chamber system undermines the traditional congressional system and the debate of a law before its approval.

Opinions in Favor

—The executive branch must issue regulations on all those subjects that are not specifically delegated to the legislative branch by the law and the Constitution.
—Partial veto of laws undermines congressional power to overrule a presidential veto.
—The socioeconomic and political situation calls for an executive branch with sufficient power to resolve problems.
—The dissolution of Congress is a resource to resolve a conflict of powers.
—A single chamber allows expeditious congressional procedures.

Article Says 'Cowardly Attack' on Baghdad 'Should Be Repudiated'

PY0807155793 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 30 Jun 93 p A23

[Article by Patricio Ricketts Rey de Castro: "Pharisaicalness"]

[Text] Last week I attended an international conference organized by the North-South Center of the University of Miami. A report was delivered on the lack of democracy and freedom of expression in the country of Fujimori and [Spanish historian Fernando] Montesinos in a melodramatic way with special effects like those used in national soup operas. A report was also delivered on the dangers stalking opposition reporters, who are said to be the last hope upon which human rights—systematically violated here by authoritarianism, corruption, and palace-organized crime—hangs on. And while the remaining smelly script about our false widows of freedom was being declaimed before the noble gringo defenders of human rights, 23 Tomahawk missiles were spreading death, destruction, and terror in Baghdad on the orders of the liberal, democrat, and super-humane President Clinton.

Clinton? The same Clinton who heads the human rights cause in the entire world, especially in Latin America where he used it to shelve all U.S. economic-financial and other responsibilities?

Yes, that Richard [as published] Clinton.

The one with 36 percent approval, the one who got his hair cut in an airport, the one whose proposed advisers were rejected, the one whose government has quotas for minorities, the one who approves of gay soldiers—providing they keep quiet—and the one who got booed in Arlington?

Exactly; Hillary's handsome husband.

The situation is that Clinton, the preacher, arbiter, and supreme champion of human rights attacked with premeditation, advantage, treachery, surprise, and ferocity. In Baghdad no one imagined he would do that. Of course, no one had a chance to take cover. The people were enjoying life and peace in their offices, homes, shops, and streets when, suddenly, all hell broke loose. Explosions, buildings collapsing, bodies, people injured, blood, screaming, desolation, and horror. More pain and tears from the victims and relatives in the midst of the Clinton-ruin, which must be added to the Bush-debris that was long ago removed prior to the reconstruction.

Since there is no justification for this new Guernica [Picasso painting of battle during Spanish Civil War], is

there at least an explanation for it? What was the reason for such a brutal attack by a superpower on a weak and helpless country? Was it simply the mere warranted discredit of a president who, in just five months, has provoked in his country and the world "a sinking feeling" as TIME magazine put it? Was it necessary to bomb Baghdad just to make U.S. citizens feel good and get the sensation they are being appropriately governed?

There is nothing, absolutely nothing to justify Clinton. No law, authority, nor reason endorses his action. The United States does not even dare invoke the UN Security Council resolutions. Clinton intends to claim it as legitimate defense. Hitler also complained about the brutality of the Czechs and Poles against the poor Germans. But the argument used now is even more laughable. To what legitimate defense do they refer when they speak about an alleged attack months ago that was never perpetrated and that only the CIA investigated? Who deserves the ferocious response of Tomahawks to an event which, in the worse of cases, was nothing but a project? How does anyone justify the bombing of an entire city when the culprit—if there is one—is allegedly one single man?

The cowardly attack on Baghdad, beside the pharisaicalness that it reveals, should be repudiated. But there is more to it than that. We are entering an era of incremental warmongering which is as dangerous as the cold war. Anything can happen with a corrupt United Nations and a subservient OAS. They talk about monitoring from Congress and from the media. Where are the protests? Where are the principles? The only thing that is quite clear is that there are pharisaical Tomahawks flying around, preaching humanism. So beware!

U.S. Missile Attack on Baghdad Seen as 'Use of Force'

PY0807174993 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 29 Jun 93 p 16

[Editorial: "World Policeman"]

[Text] No matter how you look at it, the U.S. Government launching of 23 Tomahawk missiles against the central headquarters of the Iraqi secret services in Baghdad merely boils down to the use of force.

Informing the international community, **after the event,** of an Iraqi intelligence services plot to murder former President George Bush during his visit **last April** to Kuwait and the subsequent retaliation, with UN approval, is insufficient and inaccurate, although both old (United Kingdom) and new (Russia) U.S. allies have been forced to swallow this bitter pill.

Both international law and the UN Charter speak of retaliation commensurate with the action. Evidently this is not the case. Besides, there must be a relative time scale, which also is not the case, diplomatic warnings, and the UN Security Council should be informed **before** the retaliation, not afterward.

Then why carry out a bombing in retaliation to a plot—which, if it ever existed, was not carried out—three months later and without any prior warning? The issue should be regarded from several points of view. First, the role the United States plays in the world since the rupture of the shaky bipolar equilibrium that prevailed from the end of World War II until the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

The U.S. Government is increasingly assuming the role of world policeman. This role was previously restricted to its traditional fields of action (Grenada, Panama, El Salvador), but now it has become global, as demonstrated in the cases of Somalia, and perhaps even to the former Yugoslavia if the conflict extends to Kosovo or Macedonia.

Second, the role that this superpower is playing in the Middle East, where concurrent to sponsoring the stalemate peace process between Israel and its Arab neighbors, it has assumed greater responsibilities in maintaining an "armed peace" following the war against Iraq.

This war attained only one of its objectives: The withdrawal of Iraqi invasion forces from Kuwait. However, it failed in its attempt to promote the downfall of Saddam Husayn's dictatorship which managed to remain in power despite losing the war and the arsenals that were destroyed by imposition of the United Nations, which imposed on him an international surveillance that the Iraqi Government tolerates with understandably bad will.

Why has the United States—one of the declared enemies of Saddam Husayn—not pushed the buttons to provoke his downfall? The answer became clear a few weeks after the war: Iraq would have remained in such a weak situation that the country could have disintegrated into three states, with a Kurdish minority in the north and a Shiite minority in the south, each pressuring in favor of their own interests.

Under these conditions, Saddam paradoxically became "the known enemy," the only person capable of uniting his country, someone capable of preventing—equally as dangerous—a shift toward a Shiite-controlled government or the formation of an integration regime that would immediately ally itself with neighboring Iran and thus causing a real headache in the region, placing stability in a worse situation than that represented by Saddam Husayn's dictatorship.

And finally, a third analysis of this bombing of Baghdad which can be found in the United States. It is not so much that Mr. Clinton wants to strengthen his internal image, as some commentators have said, in that his government has not deteriorated during his first five months in office (he has just obtained a not too disdainful victory having convinced a reluctant Congress to approve his economic plan), but in the serious security problem the United States might have at home.

It is appropriate to mention here that the U.S. secret services have just dismantled the biggest Muslim infiltration ever discovered in its territory. This extremist group was planning to plant bombs at the United Nations and in the tunnels linking New York with New Jersey, and to murder the UN Secretary General, the president of Egypt, and two U.S. congressmen.

The mastermind of this plot seems to be an Egyptian religious leader whose ties lead to Cairo (although this is not very clear yet), but it seems obvious that the retaliation against Baghdad—like the one carried out against Libya some years ago—is a warning. It shows once again that the United States is willing to punish its enemies wherever they may be.

The United States is playing a very complicated and scarcely acceptable political game here which, under current circumstances, can only be objected in the moral order because the imbalance created by the disappearance of the then Soviet superpower has left the international opposition completely off balance. Until an effective opposition emerges again, which may take a long time, the world role assumed by the United States may, within the next few years, lead it to take other similar actions.

This should not force anyone to remain silent and thus justify what happened in Baghdad, regardless of the objections posed by its president—where innocent civilians were victims of an allegedly exact bombing on a nonmilitary target. President Clinton's excuses, arguing that these victims have helped to save a large number of lives, are absolutely inadmissible.

This policy of international actions can quickly lead to a backwardness that could be used to justify anything. We have, therefore, the United Nations, a forum where the U.S. Government should have lodged **before** its complaints against Husayn's regime. It is clear that the Security Council should have never authorized the bombing of Baghdad in retaliation to a plot that was never executed, but there are other forms of international pressure that can be imposed without the use of weapons.

Justifying this episode means that someday, in not such a preposterous scenario, the United States may decide to use force against the coca producing countries, or to retaliate against governments that do not cooperate, which would certainly be inadmissible.

Uruguay

Government To Seek Rio Group Declaration on U.S. Attack Against Baghdad

PY0607234193 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 29 Jun 93 p 2

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu yesterday said Uruguay will seek the consensus of all Rio Group member countries for a joint declaration on the U.S. missile attack against Baghdad that caused an undetermined number of civilian victims.

The foreign minister said our country traditionally has respected the principles of international law and therefore will "support all decisions made within the framework of the United Nations and the organic laws regulating the use of force."

Besides consultations "on the domestic front," the foreign minister "is in permanent contact with the pro tempore Rio Group secretary, the Chilean foreign minister, seeking a consensus and eventually a declaration by all Rio Group foreign ministers." [passage omitted]

Financial, Industrial Sectors Said Most Affected by Strike

PY0807185493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1749 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Article by Jorge Figueroa]

[Text] Montevideo, 7 Jul (EFE)—The Uruguayan financial and industrial sectors were the most affected today by the general strike organized by the country's main labor union to protest against the government's neoliberal economic policy and to support the various labor unions in conflict.

The strike was fully observed in Montevideo, where more than half the 3 million Uruguayans reside, and only partially in the rest of the country.

The strike was summoned by the Inter-Union Workers Plenum-National Convention of Workers (PIT-CNT).

The strike was called to criticize the economic adjustment plan recently announced by the Economy and Finance Ministry, to support the labor unions in conflict, to defend the labor unions' rights, to demand salary increases for public and private workers, to defend job opportunities, and to uphold the need for a productive industrial policy.

The banking sector—both public and private—which is one of the sectors in conflict, was fully paralyzed in Montevideo and partial strike-bound in other areas of the country. The Montevideo Stock Exchange, however, operated normally, but with little movement.

The Social Security Bank (BPS) only dealt with union related matters to finish the necessary paperwork to pay pensions as of tomorrow.

Most industries and factories remained closed, stores were open although very few people went shopping.

The main public transportation company in Montevideo only ran an emergency service by the owners and managers while transportation cooperatives observed the measure. Taxi service workers adopted a similar attitude. Some taxis were running, driven by their owners.

Supplies of electricity, potable water, telephone, and gas have been guaranteed by a skeleton staff of workers, with the authorization of their respective unions.

Only serious and urgent cases received medical assistance at the hospitals. Movie theaters are closed.

Carrasco international airport operated normally. The air bridge between Montevideo and Buenos Aires, however, suffered slight delays. Montevideo port remained open, but just one Japanese-flagged ship was unloading 1,700 vehicles.

Newspapers were not published although radio stations and television channels carried their usual programs.

Almost all public offices were functioning, although a large number of employees failed to appear for work.

Congress operated normally with an ordinary session of the Chamber of Deputies. In the education field the strike coincides with the winter holidays.

PIT-CNT leaders met with legislators of the governing National Party or "Blanco" Party "to discuss the workers' problems and to seek a solution," according to labor union spokesmen.

This is the second time since democracy was restored in 1985 that a labor union delegation has formally met with legislators of the governing party.

The PIT-CNT is preparing a document to be released on 25 August, Uruguayan Independence day, "listing the demands of the labor unions, trade and agricultural sector," according to the spokesmen.

Yesterday's strike was the ninth general strike summoned by the PIT-CNT since Luis Alberto Lacalle came to power on 1 March 1990.

These are the sectors currently in conflict in Uruguay: The construction workers with a strike that started 37 days ago, the banking, health, education, metalworkers, some public servant sectors, fishing and textile workers.

Labor Minister, Under Secretary To Leave Posts

PY0807135393 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpt] It has been confirmed that Alvaro Carbone, the labor and social action minister, will leave this post to resume his activities in the Chamber of Deputies. It was leaked that Carbone will be replaced by Carlos Perez del Castillo, an expert in labor affairs.

Official sources have stated that President Luis Alberto Lacalle has approved Minister Carbone's decision to leave his post to resume his activities as legislator.

Although President Lacalle has not been determined when Carbone will leave the cabinet, the sources stated that it could be at the end of this month and early August.

Current Labor Under Secretary Ricardo Reilly will also leave his post. Reilly will be posted abroad as part of a broad reorganization within this ministry. [passage omitted]

Court Orders Release of Alleged ETA Member

PY0907003593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1711 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Jul (EFE)—A court spokesmen told EFE today that Uruguayan justice has ordered the release of Spaniard Jesus Maria Lariz Iriondo, alleged member of the ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty], whose extradition as requested by Spain was denied by the Court of Appeals.

Lariz Iriondo has a pretrial inquest pending in a Spanish court for belonging to an armed organization, for kidnapping, for carrying explosives and weapons, and for destructive acts. These "crimes were considered political by Uruguayan justice, which is why the extradition was not granted," according to the sources.

Jesus Maria Lariz Iriondo and 12 other Spaniards, eight of them alleged ETA members, were arrested in May 1992 in Montevideo. They were tried and imprisoned for "using false documents."

Last February, Judge Alfredo Gomez Tedeschi of the Second Criminal Court rejected the extradition request. This decision was appealed by Criminal Prosecutor Miguel Angel Langon.

The Second Criminal Court of Appeals, which is made up of three judges, confirmed the rejection of the extradition request, because "the formal accusations made in the extradition request are not included in the extradition treaty of criminals (of November 1885) signed by Uruguay and Spain."

Venezuela

Expansion of Agreement on Oil Byproducts With Russia, Cuba Announced

PA0907011493 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 29 Jun 93 p A-2

[Text] The expansion of a trade agreement on oil byproducts between Russia, Venezuela, and Cuba was announced on 28 June within the framework of Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov's official visit to Caracas.

Based on the agreement, Venezuelan Petroleum (PDVSA) currently ships oil to Cuba in exchange for Russia delivering supplies to PDVSA facilities in Europe and exchanging other type of products with Cuba.

Mamedov said the trilateral Cuban-Russian-Venezuelan oil agreement "is not a trilateral trade agreement." He explained that the Venezuelan and Russian governments are studying "a broad oil exchange, taking advantage of

the opportunities offered by Russia's oil relations with Asia and Europe and Venezuela's position in its trade with Latin America, not only with Cuba."

Regarding political differences between Cuba and Russia during the past few months, Mamedov said "it is not a matter of ideology," but "a commercial vision. This exchange of supplies represents great savings for us in freight charges," he added.

Russia prefers to sign an agreement with Venezuela for the purchase of products used in the oil industry or some other pact in the same field rather than "holding long talks on development possibilities," Mamedov said after signing several agreements with the Venezuelan Government at the Foreign Ministry.

Mamedov said Venezuela has made proposals to his government for modernizing the oil and petrochemical industries, adding that "we have made some progress in that area." As for the financial resources for the modernization projects, Mamedov said he will meet with Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich and "representatives from that sector" on 29 June. He stressed Russia has the necessary financial means, adding that at the upcoming Group of 7 summit in Tokyo his country hopes to obtain the funds to finance those projects.

On 28 June, Mamedov, accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Gerbasi, signed three agreements: a consultation protocol, the elimination of visa requirements for acting diplomats, and a cultural and scientific exchange program.

'Complementary Economic Agreement' Signed With Chile

PA0807194793 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 29 Jun 93 p 2-4

[Article by Mariela Leon]

[Excerpts] The Venezuelan and Chilean Governments on 28 June signed the Complementary Economic Agreement that will take effect on 1 July 1993. The balanced, reciprocal agreement states that both countries agree to establish facilities for bilateral exchange, including a tariff liberalization program. The agreement was signed by Alvaro Briones, Chilean deputy economy minister, and Miguel Rodriguez Mendoza, minister-president of the Foreign Trade Institute. [passage omitted]

The Chilean deputy economy minister dismissed local industrialists' claims that Chilean businessmen will enjoy an advantage by placing their products on the Venezuelan market because they do not have to pay a Value-Added Tax [VAT] that would be required on Venezuelan products.

Briones said no discriminatory measures will be applied to Venezuelan products entering Chile. There is a 16-percent VAT in Chile. It is levied on all products marketed in Chile, thus it will not create a trade imbalance for imports from Venezuela. Venezuelan products will compete with other products in Chile on a strict and absolutely equal footing, Briones added.

[Leon] Do you have any estimates on how much exports between the two countries will grow once the agreement goes into effect?
[Briones] We have high hopes that trade between the two countries will increase. Our experience with other Latin American countries such as Argentina and Mexico indicates that bilateral trade will increase significantly in the short term. It is difficult to give figures in this case. We should wait and see how the relationship develops, but we know trade will increase. More importantly, however, we hope there will be a balanced flow of products and resources.

[Leon] What is the current trade balance between Chile and Venezuela?
[Briones] There is a bilateral trade of about $215 million that is unfavorable to Chile. The foreign trade game is based on equality. It should not favor either party. Our goal is to achieve a balance in the short term. It depends on us, the quality of our products, our ability to increase our competitiveness in relation to the Venezuelan market, and on developing a healthy spirit of competition between our countries that will help all of us improve.

[Leon] What will Chile export to Venezuela?
[Briones] Various types of cellulose products and fruit. We will import primarily petroleum, petrochemical, mining products, and fruit from Venezuela.

[Leon] Does Chile plan to establish a common trade strategy given that it has signed agreements with two of the Group of Three countries?
[Briones] Chile is currently basing its foreign trade strategy on the establishment of bilateral agreements. We have done this with economies in which we see situations that are similar to ours and where there are conditions for consolidating commercial ties on equal terms. For many years Chile opened its market unilaterally to international markets. The degree of openness we have achieved, however, forces us to focus on the consolidation of bilateral agreements. We are not now considering multilateral agreements with a group of countries. We will increase our bilateral agreements before making any other decision. [passage omitted]

International Analyst Comments on Group of 7 Summit

PA0907020093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 8 Jul 93

[International analyst Antonio Romero commentary]

[Text] Good evening. The Group of Seven [G-7] summit, which is being held in Tokyo, will end in a matter of hours. It is appropriate to mention that the leading industrialized countries and Japan tend to seek a much

firmer position concerning international events, both from the political and economic viewpoint.

Talking about political issues, they reached essential agreements for the development of international relations in the next few years. It is appropriate to mention the G-7's opposition to dividing the former Yugoslavia. Second, they have issued an appeal to step up efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Third, they have issued an appeal to the peoples of the world, urging them to take into consideration the poverty being developed in certain countries.

From the economic viewpoint, it is also appropriate to mention the G-7's recognition that any possibility of achieving economic rectivation in those countries must be preceded by the promotion of jobs. This is, perhaps, a return to a more flexible position concerning the meaning of employment and production.

Consequently, all these elements indicate the G-7 is striving at the Tokyo summit to reinstate a balance in the world's structure and to prevent Asia from replacing Europe and Japan as the axis of world politics.

Finance Minister Submits Special Powers Law to Congress

PA0807201893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Finance Minister Carlos Rafael Silva on 8 July submitted to Congress a special powers bill containing 16 urgent economic and financial matters. Upon leaving the Legislative Palace the minister said he hoped a decision would be made soon to grant special powers to President Ramon J. Velasquez.

[Begin Silva recording] The things I had to say about this special law, which the executive submitted to Congress, is contained in the document I read today. The document has been handed out so all of you can read it and comment on those aspects that you feel are most important. I already said it would be ideal if Congress approved it as soon as it deems advisable. Obviously I respect the period Congress has to hold debates, which I am certain will begin now that the bill has been submitted. [end recording]

Defense Minister on Exiled Officers' Position

PA0907030193 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Report by Cecilia Pachano]

[Text] Defense Minister Rear Admiral Radames Munoz Leon said on 8 July he is surprised by Division General Francisco Visconti Osorio's rejection of the proposal his office intends to present to have the exiled officers return to the country. According to Rear Adm. Munoz, the proposal has yet to be presented.

He said the ministry's intention is to facilitate the exiled military officers' return so they may face a fair trial. Munoz Leon explained the Defense Ministry commission is still being formed, so the proposal's guidelines have not been discussed. They cannot reject what has not yet been offered.

Rear Adm. Radames Munoz Leon said the offer will be issued within the guidelines established by Venezuelan law. The officers will be given the treatment outlined by the law and their human rights will be respected fully.

[Begin recording] [Munoz] I will give them an opportunity. I confirm that. But they cannot be told: Come back and we will pretend that nothing has happened.

[Unidentified reporter] But the commission....
[Munoz, interrupting] The law and justice must prevail. The idea is for the commission to go and negotiate their return. Some of their relatives have told me....[pauses] some of their relatives have sent me messages saying these people do not even have the means to return to the country. Well, I offer them the opportunity. [end recording]

Asked about statements given by Commander Hugo Chavez, Munoz Leon categorically rejected the possibility that security corps are responsible for the explosive device left on Los Proceres Avenue. But he said he does consider it possible that some groups are using the Bolivarian Movement or 5 July Movement name to perpetrate actions without Commander Chavez' or Rear Adm. Hernan Gruber Odreman's knowledge.

Talking about Rear Adm. Gruber Odreman's visit, he said it was simply a meeting between two old friends who were classmates.